■ ENTERTAINMENT / A32

Lost and found: '70s sexy actress Susan Henson

■ NEWS / A2

Taipans fight for control of Naia Terminal 3

■ METRO / A22

4 get death penalty for kidnapping of businesswoman

■ SPORTS / A25

Air21 sends PBA's top rookie pick to Talk 'N Text

Seller of rare birds picks wrong customer

RARE ANG CUSTOMER NA YAN.!

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE OWNER OF A SHOP selling endangered species at SM Megamall picked the worst customer he could to sell his birds to.

Janson Ko, owner of

SELLER/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Katrina damage to global economy to last until 2006

NEW YORK—THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOlogical damage caused by Hurricane Katrina is likely to reverberate across the global economy in ways that will curb growth well into 2006, according to economists.

A spike in already high energy costs in the United States and around the world tops the list of risks, especially since oil prices are un-

KATRINA/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, September 6, 2005 ★★ 44 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 270 P18

website: www.inq7.net

GMA solons poised to kill impeachment

By Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadora and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ALLIES OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IN the House of Representatives were poised last night to strangle an opposition-led move to impeach her and put her on trial before the Senate for election fraud.

The killing of the impeachment complaint became a possibility because of the opposition's failure to muster the 79 votes needed to bring the case to a Senate court.

But the opposition warned quashing the case would close the last legal avenue to Ms Arroyo's peaceful removal from Malacañang and force her opponents to take their battle to the streets.

As former President Corazon Aquino and Susan Roces, widow of the late opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., watched from the gallery, accusations that Ms Arroyo had rigged the 2004 vote rang out in the House session hall.

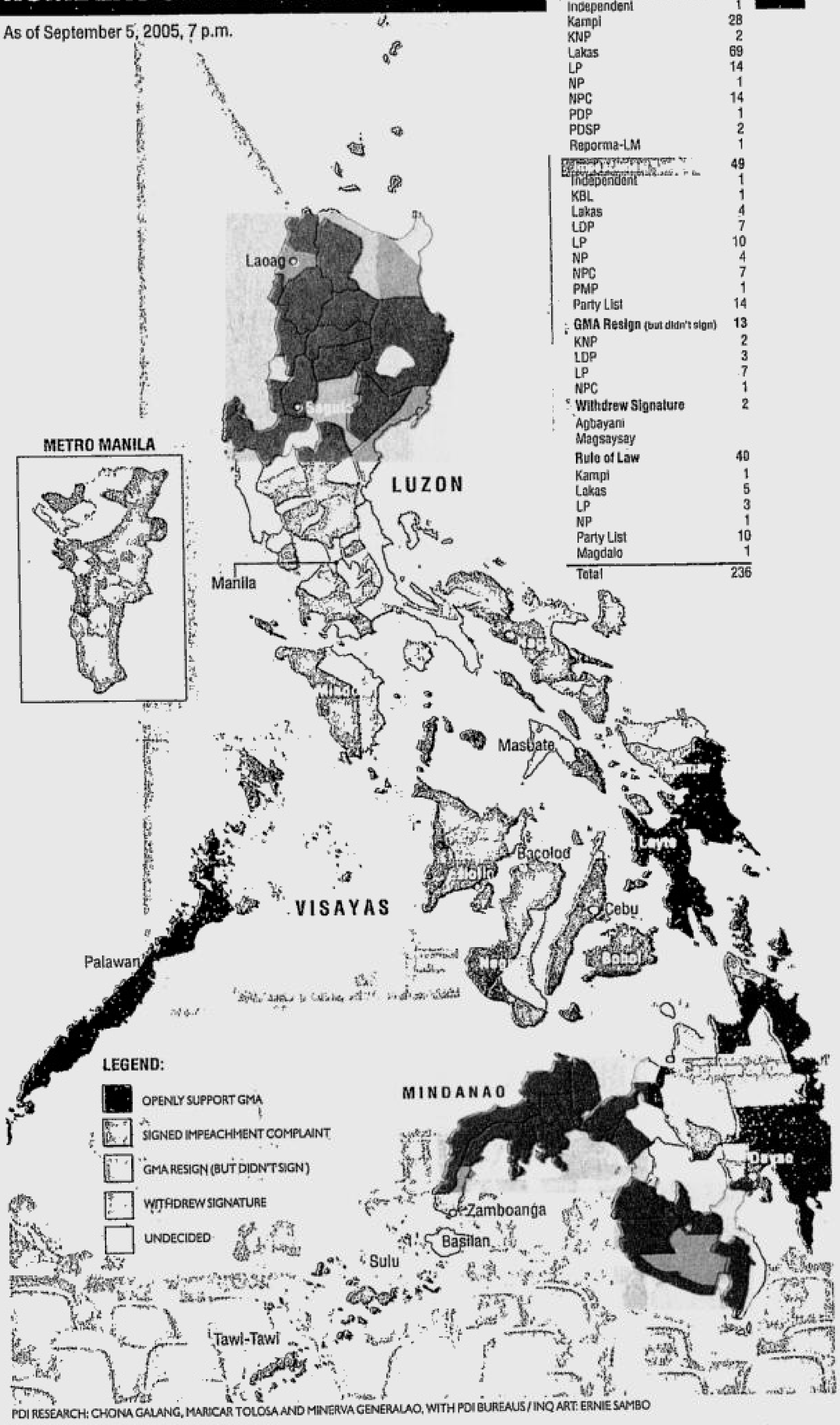
Camarines Sur Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella (Nationalist People's Coalition) struck the first blow for the opposition when he resigned as vice chair of the committee on justice, which had voted to dismiss the three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, and announced he was supporting the impeachment move.

"I am affixing my signature to the impeachment

GMA SOLONS/ A21

NUMBERS GAME AT HOUSE

As of September 5, 2005, 7 p.m.



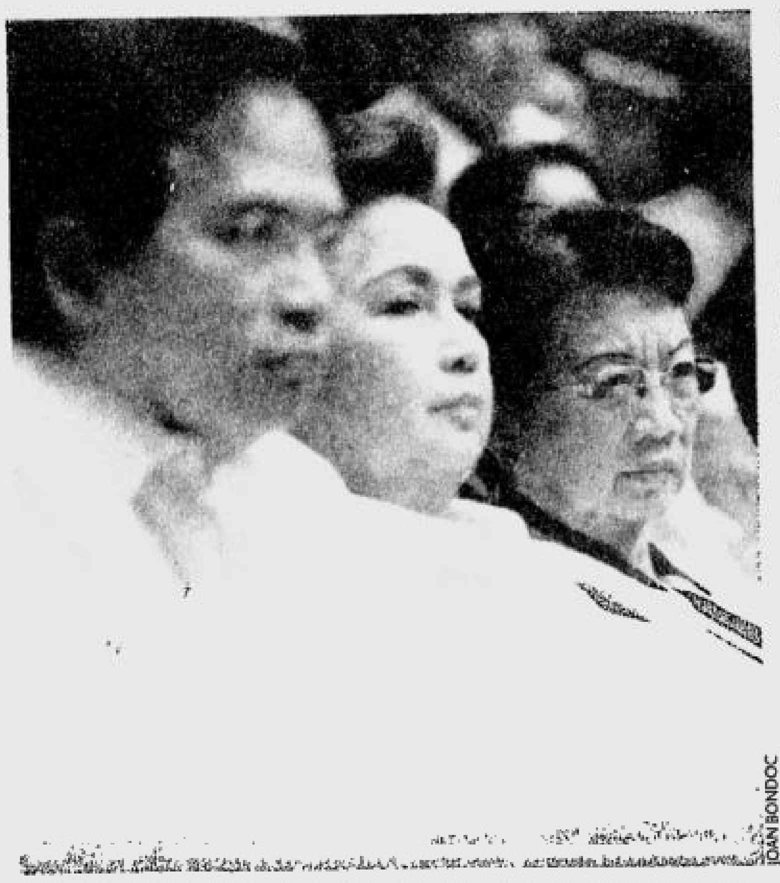
Supports GMA	**132**
Independent	1
Kampi	28
KNP	2
Lakas	69
LP	14
NP	1
NPC	14
PDP	1
PDSP	2
Reporma-LM	1
[illegible]	49
Independent	1
KBL	1
Lakas	4
LDP	7
LP	10
NP	4
NPC	7
PMP	1
Party List	14
GMA Resign (but didn't sign)	**13**
KNP	2
LDP	3
LP	7
NPC	1
Withdrew Signature	**2**
Agbayani	
Magsaysay	
Rule of Law	**40**
Kampi	1
Lakas	5
LP	3
NP	1
Party List	10
Magdalo	1
Total	236

LEGEND:

- ■ OPENLY SUPPORT GMA
- ▨ SIGNED IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT
- ▨ GMA RESIGN (BUT DIDN'T SIGN)
- ▨ WITHDREW SIGNATURE
- ☐ UNDECIDED

PDI RESEARCH: CHONA GALANG, MARICAR TOLOSA AND MINERVA GENERALAO, WITH PDI BUREAUS / INQ ART: ERNIE SAMBO

Cory, Susan shift battle to streets



JOAN BONDOC

PROIMPEACHMENT ROW: (From left) Bro. Eddie Villanueva, Susan Roces and former President Corazon Aquino stare down those on the other side of the impeachment fence.

Broad united front against GMA formed

By Fe Zamora, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and DJ Yap

TWO FAMOUS WIDOWS, a preacher and leaders of civil society have formed a broad united front with members of militant groups and supporters of former President Joseph Estrada to press for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Faced by the threat the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo would be junked today, former President Corazon Aquino, actress Susan Roces, Bro. Eddie Villanueva and members of the newly formed Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan (Coalition for the Truth) planned to march this afternoon on the House of Representatives.

Aquino is the widow of martyred opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, and Roces of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., the closest rival of Ms Arroyo in the 2004 elections.

The widows will lead an estimated 50,000 protesters from the St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue to the Batasang

CORY/ A20

Team-up too little, too late, says Malacañang

By Gil C. Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DISmissed as too little, too late the decision of Corazon Aquino and Susan Roces to go on a road show to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Let them dream about it," said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez of the supposed Cory-Susan blockbuster. "So far, I've not seen that people power materialize."

"If the Cory-Susan team-up was forged when the impeachment issue began, it could have drawn more active advocates to the opposition side," said Reli German of the Malacañang crisis team.

German said the majority of Filipinos were "extremely wary" of the strange bedfellows in the oust-GMA move that ex-President Aquino and the widow of the late movie star Fernando Poe Jr. would now spearhead.

"Those reluctant to participate in the opposition probably want to know from leftist organizations, military adventurists, *trapos* (traditional politicians) and presidential wannabes how ousting the President will immediately address their average concerns about food, jobs, housing and education," German said.

Striking workers of Hacienda Luisita, the Aquino-owned sugar estate in Tarlac, said that if the former President wanted meaningful change in the political landscape, she should start in her own backyard.

About 50 workers carried a makeshift coffin to Aquino's Times Street residence in Quezon City and lit candles during a 45-minute demonstration yesterday.

They appealed to Aquino to engage them in a dialogue to resolve the workers' long-standing dispute, including the payment of back

TEAM-UP/ A20

Opposition says Pagcor funds tied to plot to discredit Church

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jocelyn R. Uy

OPPOSITION GROUPS YESTERday accused the Arroyo administration of mounting a campaign to discredit the Philippine Church hierarchy in order to torpedo efforts by her rivals to enlist priests and prelates in their drive to oust her.

The Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya, which groups lay people and bishops together, said the release over the weekend of the names of bishops who had received donations from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., or Pagcor, constituted "blackmail."

KME chair Jaime Regalario in a news conference also revealed that a man, who had identified himself as Jojo de Leon and claimed to be a nephew of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, had offered to give donations to his group.

In exchange, Pagcor wanted us to tone down criticism of the Arroyo administration, Regalario said.

Pagcor spokesperson Edward King denied Regalario's claim. "We get swamped with thousands of requests for funding every day … Why should we still go out and

OPPOSITION / A20

167 Int'l School teachers to get $3.8M

By Jerome Aning

THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL School Manila has agreed to pay $3.8 million in back compensation to 167 former and current Filipino teachers of the school, ending a 10-year-old dispute about salary disparity between Filipino and foreign-hired teachers.

The teachers' claims would be paid in three batches: $1.9 million in the next 60 days; $500,000 by November 2007, and $750,000 by November 2008, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

ISM assets, including its 7.5-hectare campus at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, were supposed to be auctioned off yesterday morning by the labor department to satisfy a Supreme Court ruling in 2000 that the school pay locally hired Filipino teachers the same salary rates as those of foreign-hired teachers.

However, last-minute negotiations arranged by the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) of the Department of Labor and Employment ended in a settlement early Sunday night.

It was the fifth meeting since Aug. 29 between the management and the teachers'

167 INT'L/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/09/06/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Taipans fight for control of Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

IT HAS TURNED INTO A battle of taipans.

Lucio Tan's Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. has offered the government $300 million for the right to operate Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, the company's lawyer said.

Emilio Yap's Manila Hotel Corp., now the majority owner of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), has also asked the Arroyo administration to allow it to operate Naia 3.

Manila Hotel is buying the 61-percent stake in Piatco of the German firm Fraport AG for $200 million. It has also acquired the combined 20-percent interest in Naia 3 of Sojitz Corp. and SB Airport Investment Corp. for $30 million.

Piatco built and was to operate the terminal before it got caught in a morass of lawsuits that resulted in the cancellation of its contract and the government expropriation of the airport facility.

AEDC lawyer Perfecto Yasay said the government could use the $300 million the firm was offering. He said Manila Hotel did not have the $200 million to pay Fraport.

Tan and Yap had been known to be at odds for a long time. Recently, though, it was believed they had buried the hatchet.

EMILIO YAP: $200-million bid

LUCIO TAN: $300-million ante

AEDC is now controlled by Tan. Established by the country's six taipans, or wealthiest Chinese-Filipino businessmen, during the Ramos administration, AEDC submitted an unsolicited offer of $350 million to build and operate Naia 3 .

But when the project was subjected to a Swiss challenge, the Ramos administration said Piatco had submitted a better offer. Except for Tan, the other taipans then decided to scrap the project.

Under a Swiss challenge, a deal is subjected to counteroffers to see if the original offer was reasonable.

The original proponent, however, retains the right to match the higher offer if it wants to keep the contract.

Yasay said AEDC now had a "legal right" to operate Naia 3 after the Supreme Court nullified Piatco's contract with the government in 2002.

The Arroyo administration seized the airport facility in December 2004, hoping to open it by June 2005, and now by December.

AEDC is pressing the Department of Transportation and Communication to recognize its "valid claim."

Yasay told Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza in a Sept. 1 letter that "any claim of Manila Hotel to operate Naia 3 was invalid because the law requires a bidding."

"At best, what Manila Hotel got for buying Fraport's stake was a share in the just compensation Piatco may be entitled to," Yasay said in the letter.

Yasay said he first wrote Mendoza about the issue on March 14, 2005, and asked for a dialogue. Nearly six months have passed and Yasay said he had yet to hear from Mendoza.

Alfonso Cusi, Manila International Airport Authority general manager, agreed the government could not just allow any private group to operate Naia 3 without a bidding.

"Since the Supreme Court nullified the contract with Piatco, the government has to bid out the operation of Naia 3. The government cannot just assign to anybody the right to operate it," Cusi said in an interview.

The MIAA chief denied the Arroyo administration had a hand in the deal between Manila Hotel and Fraport.

He said Manila Hotel's decision to buy Fraport's stake in Piatco amid all the unresolved cases and issues was a business decision.

"Manila Hotel could be betting on several scenarios. Now, whether any of these scenarios would materialize is another thing," he said.

Mendoza, however, said the government had been talking with Manila Hotel.

He indicated the Arroyo administration might allow Piatco, now controlled by Manila Hotel, to operate the airport terminal, depending on how the legal issues were resolved.

For their part, Piatco lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato said that if the government would not let Piatco operate Naia 3, then no other private group should be given the contract.

Chato said the AEDC offer of $300 million to operate the new terminal was ridiculous.

"How can they do that? They did not even win the bidding," she said.

Chato pointed out the case filed by AEDC against the DOTC in 1997 to nullify the awarding of the build-operate-transfer contract to Piatco was withdrawn by the taipans.

She said if the government would not let Piatco operate Naia 3, the company would take its chances with the arbitration case it had filed in Singapore where it is asking for $525 million in compensation.

But Yasay said AEDC was forced by former President Joseph Estrada to withdraw the 1997 case.

He said AEDC's offer of $300 million was reasonable since it was what Piatco spent to construct the terminal, although the amount was negotiable.

Takenaka Corp., which built the terminal for Piatco, said the consortium spent $290 million to put up Naia 3. Piatco, however, claimed it spent $650 million.

Fraport also sued the Philippine government for $424 million before the World Bank arbitration court in Washington DC.

The government has filed a $900-million countersuit against Piatco and Fraport, also in Washington.

Palace not keen on truth body

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN pursuing the truth behind allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo stole the 2004 elections.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday admitted that the Palace had other priorities and was not inclined to pursue its plan to form a Truth Commission to look into allegations against the President.

"I believe the Truth Commission is on the back burner for the time being," Bunye told reporters.

During the height of the political crisis in July, Ms Arroyo announced that she would heed the advice of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and establish a Truth Commission, saying she could not ignore calls for her to resign.

The President wanted the commission not only to look into allegations that she cheated in the 2004 elections but also into her own allegations that there were people behind the political crisis hounding her administration.

RCBC
A YGC Member

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

Through our 45 years of service to the public, we, at **Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)**, have strictly adhered to the highest standards of banking.

Recent newspaper articles reported the allegation of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP) that RCBC violated banking laws in relation to its management of the trust funds of Pacific Plans, Inc. (PPI). The allegation is now lodged in the proper forum. We can now properly respond.

We would like to request the public to exercise sobriety and prudence amid these allegations and calls by PEP to withdraw their deposits from RCBC. More importantly, we would like to warn the public that PEP may be resorting to underground tactics including, but not limited to anonymous text messages and emails which are meant to undermine the bank and all YGC affiliates. These are clearly reckless acts.

The bank, to this day, remains a solid financial institution that the public can rely on for their banking needs.

So the public may know the truth about RCBC and its involvement in the PPI issue, let the following key points shed light:

- **RCBC welcomes the opportunity to clear itself of any charges** lodged against it by PEP. It is confident that Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will rule in its favor, the same way that the bank-governing body has defended RCBC during the height of the controversy linking the bank to PPI.
- **RCBC is being dragged into the PPI issue** in an attempt by PEP to put pressure on the Yuchengco Group to yield to its demands. The bank is, however, confident that all its actions in connection with the management of PPI's trust funds were done aboveboard.
- **RCBC prudently and efficiently managed PPI's trust funds.** The bank has been in the trust business for over three decades with an established track record in fund management. In fact, it has been cited as the top fund manager in a recent survey by global consulting firm Watson Wyatt Philippines, Inc.
- **RCBC is merely one of the trustees for the PPI trust funds.** Thus, it is absolutely misleading to single out the bank's management of the PPI trust funds among several assigned trustees.
- **RCBC stands by its commitment** to provide continued top quality service to its clients and depositors.

Military ready to step in if anti-gov't protests turn violent

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY said yesterday it is ready to step in if anti-government protests give way to lawlessness.

"If lawlessness breaks out as a result of the outcome of the ongoing impeachment hearings, the Armed Forces is ready to restore order and uphold the law," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado said yesterday.

The AFP National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) yesterday said it has placed 400 troops on standby status to augment police forces in containing today's planned rally in Batasan Pambansa.

So far the NCRCom has remained on the lowest "white alert" status.

Honrado accused groups demanding the President's resignation of fanning the "volatile" situation through "disinformation, black propaganda and other anti-government activities."

"Our people should not entertain rumors and unverified information as it will only add to the tension and political instability in the country," Honrado said.

Last week AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga admitted that the soldiers, like the rest of the citizenry, are "concerned" about the political developments.

But he said the soldiers would set aside their personal sentiments being "professional soldiers."

The AFP leadership has declared that the military would remain "apolitical" and "neutral" during the political crisis as it rejected calls to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

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MESSAGE TO CONGRESSMEN

FROM OVER 600 TOP INDEPENDENT WOMEN IN CIVIL SOCIETY:

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2. LET'S SUPPORT GMA'S CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE TO MOVE OUR COUNTRY FORWARD AND TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN ASIA.

   Masyado na tayong napag-iiwanan.
3. OUR COUNTRY CANNOT MOVE FORWARD IF WE TAKE TO THE STREETS. IF THE OPPOSITION CALLS FOR PEOPLE POWER, WE WON'T LEAD AND WE WON'T FOLLOW. WE BELIEVE THAT REAL PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT LIES IN BEING UNITED AND WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS OF OUR COUNTRY.
4. DON'T WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS VOTE FOR IMPEACHMENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PLENARY SESSION. DON'T SEND THE COMPLAINT FOR TRIAL IN THE SENATE BECAUSE IT WOULD ENTAIL MORE THAN ONE YEAR OF DEBATES. THIS WOULD PARALYZE CONGRESS AND FURTHER DAMAGE THE ECONOMY.

CONCERNED FILIPINOS' DECALOGUE - AUGUST 2005

WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY AND WE FIRMLY BELIEVE:

- THAT UNITED, WE CAN EARN THE ESTEEM OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS;
- THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CAN COME UP WITH A CITIZENRY THAT IS DECENTLY FED, CLOTHED, SHELTERED, AND SCHOOLED;
- THAT MEDIA--- OBJECTIVE BUT INSPIRING, CRITICAL YET ENCOURAGING---CAN BE CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERS IN NATION-BUILDING, PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FILIPINO TALENT WILL FLOURISH AND SERVE SOCIETY AT LARGE;
- THAT OUR PEOPLE, WITH THE ABOVE BASICS, CAN BECOME PRODUCTIVE, FULFILLED INDIVIDUALS, PROUD OF BEING FILIPINOS, CONTENT TO REMAIN IN THE LAND OF THEIR BIRTH;
- THAT PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO (PGMA) AS OUR DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT, WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT AND DUTY TO SERVE OUT HER TERM, CAN WITH GOD'S GRACE AND OUR HELP BRING ABOUT THE ABOVE SITUATION;
- THAT THE PRESENT UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES HURLED AGAINST PGMA WITH ILLEGALLY OBTAINED "EVIDENCE" PRESENTED BY PEOPLE OF QUESTIONABLE REPUTE ARE FLIMSY GROUNDS THAT CANNOT MERIT A DEMAND FOR HER RESIGNATION;
- THAT TO NEGATE THE DAMAGE DONE TO PGMA'S POSITION, THE ACCUSATIONS VS. PGMA UNDERGO A FAIR LEGAL PROCESS THAT CAN SERVE TO UNITE ALL FILIPINOS TOWARD NATIONHOOD;
- THAT THE PAINFUL POLITICAL SIEGE PGMA HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO CAN STRENGTHEN HER RESOLVE TO PURSUE REFORMS WITH GREATER DETERMINATION;
- THAT QUICK FIXES AND EXTRA-LEGAL POWER GRABS CAN NEVER OFFER ANY LASTING SOLUTIONS TO POLITICAL AND OTHER WOES;
- THAT WITH TIME AND SWEAT, TEARS AND PAIN, PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION, WE CAN WITH GOD'S HELP BRING ABOUT OUR REDEMPTION.

Signatures (Part II)

Imelda O. Cojuangco
Yaying Dragon
Beng Puyat
Sonia S. Olivares
Margarita Yuchengco
Ingrid S. Santamaria
Rosalina Mercurio
Rosemarie Lopez
Resurrecion Mercado
Antonia F. Velez
Wilhelmina Gonzales
Pinky F. Ocampo
Marilou T. Arroyo
Magdalena Sta.Maria
Mary Grace Ibuna
Ma. Lourdes Laurena
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Laarni Goseco
Vicky C. Paraiso Cruz
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Lirio O. Mapa
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Leticia Martinez
Caridad Y. Seguerra
Erlinda Rodriguez

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Claudette Silerio
Ching Caluag
Sally Villanueva
Aurora K. Cabarrus
Ana Casas
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Ma. Eloisa Ramos
Juanita Almeda
Ofelia C. Adafon, M.D.
Julis Umali-Soliman
Mercy Miras
Ichi M. Yabut
Paching Melencio
Ma. Paz Diaz de Rivera
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Donna Briñas
Rosa Rita Reyes
Mary Ann Ambrosio
Vicky Dee Jose
Mercedes Guerrero
Ma. Rita Delano
Virginia Gepuela
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Marilyn Ilagan
Lolita Amores

Loida Nicolas Lewis
Pilar B. Villarama
Suzette P. Pido
Elena SJ Fernando
Katherine Yupangco
Chit Prasad
M/G. Quebral
Priscilla Valerio
Rita O. Saulog
Margarita de Leon
Virginia T. Camus
Bernadette de Leon
Beatriz P. de Leon
Leal Pason
Andrea Jalandoni
Cristina G. de Leon
Christine Eullaran
Anita V. Rey
Sylvia Lichauco
Gigi Buhay
Judith Viado
Beatriz Aurellano
Purificacion Balingit
Romalyn Balingit
Tintin Visaya
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Regina Jalandoni
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Lourdes dela Cruz
Cleo del Rosario
Celly Escarel
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Francesca Cayas
Bella F. Geronimo
Rachelle S. Buhay
Ruby D. Lim
Chit Aguilar
Mary Celestine Serrano
Maria Carla Serrano
Lina Feliciano
Mariza del Rosario
Camela Q. Chan
Pinky Cuenca
Lena B. Villarama
Rina C. Andrews
Marylou C. Andrews
Elsa R. dela Cruz
Ria Lopez
Lily M. Orendain

Sr. Remedios Loesin, R.A.
Sr. Miriam, R.A
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Natividad Ambubuyog
Ma. Luisa Hilado
Catalina Blanco
Cecilia Montalban
Cynthia Manotok
Elena Villarama
Jenny Bengzon

Maggie dela Riva
Bambi Harper
Medarle Zamuco
Angustias Caluag
Teresa Feria Nieva
Cristina Villarama
Editha Diokno-Co
Rosalyn C. Onan
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Ma. Luisa R. Nebrida
Cora Villongco
Carmencita Yap
Menchu Pascual
Sol Dizon
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Only the President can tell me to resign, ATO chief tells solon

By Nikko Dizon

AIR TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (ATO) chief Nilo Jatico will not resign because he says he is innocent of any wrongdoing.

On Sunday, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said Jatico and BI chief Alipio Fernandez should resign for their agencies' alleged role in spiriting out former Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano out of the country.

"I was appointed by [President Macapagal-Arroyo] and only she could remove me from office," Jatico told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I am innocent of what the good congressman alleges is a cover up or a connivance among agencies."

Moreover, Jatico stressed that his agency was only mandated to ensure the flight's safety and did not have responsibility regarding the "persons on the flight."

"I'm not going to pinpoint any agency," he said, although he was apparently referring to the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

Remulla also called for the cancelation of the license of air charter company, Subic Air that owns the Learjet RP-C 1426 which Garcillano allegedly used for his Singapore flight last July 14.

GMA to assure int'l investors RP okay

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo said yesterday she would ask foreign investors when she visits New York to ignore the political noise in the Philippines and put their money in its resilient economy.

Malacañang stated the President was pushing through with her trip to New York next week, mainly to preside over the United Nations Security Council on Sept. 14, whatever the outcome of the impeachment complaint filed against her in Congress.

In a statement following the mid-year economic briefing with her Cabinet officials, President Arroyo said: "My visit to New York next week will include meetings with international investors and others who closely follow developments in our economy. I shall inform them of our reform milestones, highlight the strength of Philippine enterprise and invite them to avail themselves of specific opportunities in key sectors such as mining and information and communications technology."

New York will be the President's second meeting with foreign investors after a brief trip to Hong Kong three months ago. Since then, the political noise has grown louder but President Arroyo looked confident yesterday as she maintained that the "resiliency of the Philippine economy is solid and firm."

"Despite rising international oil prices and extended political turmoil, exports and investments are up, domestic demand is robust and fiscal deficit reduction is on a progressive track," said the President.

She renewed her call "to invest in the people and not in the politics of the nation."

She said the Supreme Court's decision last week upholding the legality of the Expanded Value Added Tax (VAT) Law was an affirmation of her government's efforts "to redeem our economic future."

The law, which gave Ms Arroyo unprecedented power to increase VAT to 12 percent from 10 percent next year, is the centerpiece of her economic reform agenda to tame down the budget deficit to zero by the time she steps down in 2010.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the President's US visit was a go even though she still had to decide what to do on the last leg of her trip that would take her to San Francisco where her husband and son were in a self-imposed exile. "I don't have any schedule yet," said Bunye when asked on whether the President would touch base with the First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

With a report from AFP

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Study says 54 slain media men not 'trained' journalists

By Volt Contreras

A TOTAL OF 54 JOURNALISTS have been killed in the line of duty throughout the country since 1986.

But not one of the victims, hard-hitting or crusading they might have been, could be considered "trained" for their dangerous job, according to a new study on the alarming level of media violence in the Philippines.

A great majority were never members of any national media organization that could have provided them some training on media ethics as well as institutional protection against threats or harassment, the study also noted.

"The slain journalists were not trained journalists," the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said in its findings released yesterday.

About 62 percent of the 54 victims had college degrees "not related to journalism or mass communication," CMFR Deputy Director Rachel Khan said in a forum at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City.

Some 25 percent finished high school while 13 percent "had no record of educational attainment," she added, quoting the study which the group started last May.

CMFR Executive Director Melinda Quintos de Jesus explained that the study only counted journalists silenced for their work and excluded those who died as a result of personal disputes, ordinary crimes, or other violent incidents unrelated to the profession.

Favorite target

Broadcast journalists have been the "most common targets" since 2000, with 21 of the last 25 victims coming from their ranks.

But a closer look at their credentials revealed that "17 or more than 80 percent of [the] murdered broadcasters didn't have accreditation...from the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas," the study said.

They never had KBP accreditation because they "failed to renew their license, did not pass the accreditation exam, nor had no records at all."

Of the 952 radio stations nationwide, only 63 percent or 604 are KBP members, the study said, citing data from the National Telecommunications Commission.

Abuse of power

In an interview, Khan conceded that lack of training on the part of some reporters or commentators made them "abuse" the power of the press. They tend to be "hard-hitting without evidence or proper data-gathering."

While maintaining that there's no excuse for the criticized party to resort to murder, journalists caught in such life-threatening scenarios "could have been more prudent in their reports," she said.

"Efforts at fair reporting might have deterred (any violent retaliation)," Khan added.

Also, "they can become easy targets if they are not affiliated with any institution and left to themselves," she said.

No affiliation

Another common finding among the victims was that "none of them were affiliated with any national news organization," the study added.

Thirty-five percent were freelance journalists while another 35 percent were radio block timers or broadcasters who paid for their own airtime. Only 25 percent were regular employees and five percent were correspondents.

The study came with a list of the 54 dead, starting with Pete Mabazza, a Manila Bulletin stringer in Isabela who was killed in April 24, 1986.

The latest to fall, as monitored by CMFR, was Rolando Morales of dxMD-General Santos City, who was killed last July 5 and already the fifth victim this year.

Hired killers

The Philippine National Police's Task Force Newsmen is currently holding 42 murder suspects, of whom 32 were arrested while 10 turned themselves in.

The suspects are believed to be hired killers. "To date no police investigation has actually led to the indictment of a mastermind," the CMFR reported.

Only two cases of the 54 media killings had resulted in convictions. These were the murder cases of Alberto Berbon of dzMM-Cavite (No. 23 on the list and killed in December 1996) and Nesino Paulin Toling of (No 17 and killed in April 1991).

Three cases had been dismissed for lack of evidence, with the potential witnesses clamming up for fear of their own lives, although most of them know who the masterminds were, the study noted, quoting the PNP.

Fifteen cases were pending in courts while 27 were still under investigation. Five cases involved journalists covering armed conflicts who were killed in the crossfire; two died in a crossfire during coup attempts.

Danger zone

Still, the study stressed that it was still "misleading" to consider the entire country a danger zone for media men.

"Some provincial regions have proven more hazardous than others," it said.

In the last five years, Calabarzon (Region IV-A) and Zamboanga Peninsula (IX) have emerged as the most dangerous, accounting for 20 percent each of total deaths. Coming in second are the Bicol Region (V) and Socsargen (XII) accounting for 12 percent each.

No media killings were reported since 2000 in Regions II, IV-B, VII, VIII, X, the Cordillera Administrative Region and the National Capital Region.

DepEd launches texting service to avoid confusion

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION YESTERDAY launched a new text messaging service aimed at avoiding confusion on the cancelation of classes, among other things.

Dubbed "DETxt 2622," the service is available to Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers. It will automatically send important information and announcements from the DepEd such as the declaration of no classes due to typhoons, schedules of national tests for students, press releases and school holidays.

Education Undersecretary for Finance and Administration Juan Miguel Luz said the service, in particular, is aimed at eliminating confusion on the cancelation of classes.

Subscribers for their part can text their complaints, comments and concerns to the DepEd such as on the nondelivery of textbooks and other things schools might need.

Luz said subscribers would be charged P2.50 for every text message they receive. Sending messages will cost P1.

Reaction to the P2.50 charge was mixed with some school officials saying it was too high. But others said the service would be a great help in clearing up the confusion that often attends the cancelation of classes.

Subscribers can send ON DEPED for Globe and DEPED ON for Smart to 2622.

Users can also subscribe to the service through the following formats:

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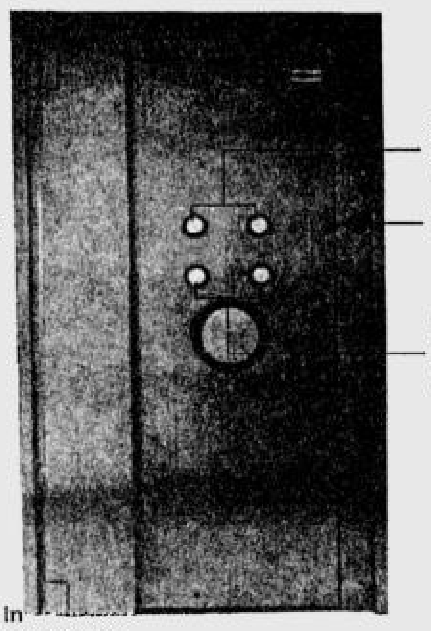
Others can also subscribe through other keywords like PRINCIPAL (for school principals), SUPT (for school superintendents), SUPERVISOR (for supervisors), EMP (for employees) and MEDIA.

Subscribers can also send feedback and complaints by typing DEPED FDBK <MESSAGE> and sending it to 2622.

Nonsubscribers and the general public can send complaints and feedback by typing DEPED FDBK <NAME>, <MESSAGE> and sending it also to 2622.

Subscribers can send DEPED <KEYWORD> HELP to 2622 for more information.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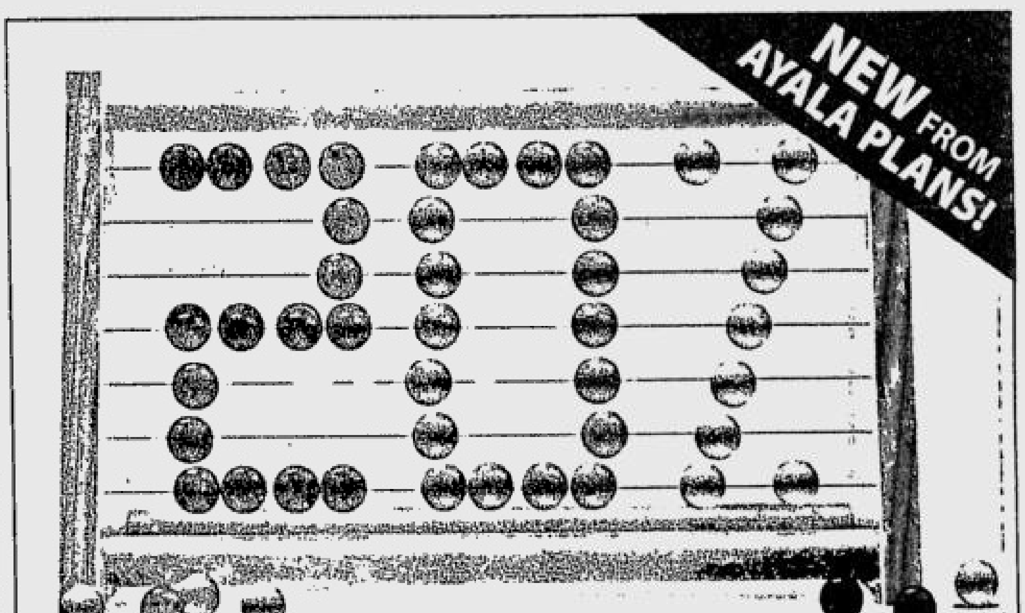

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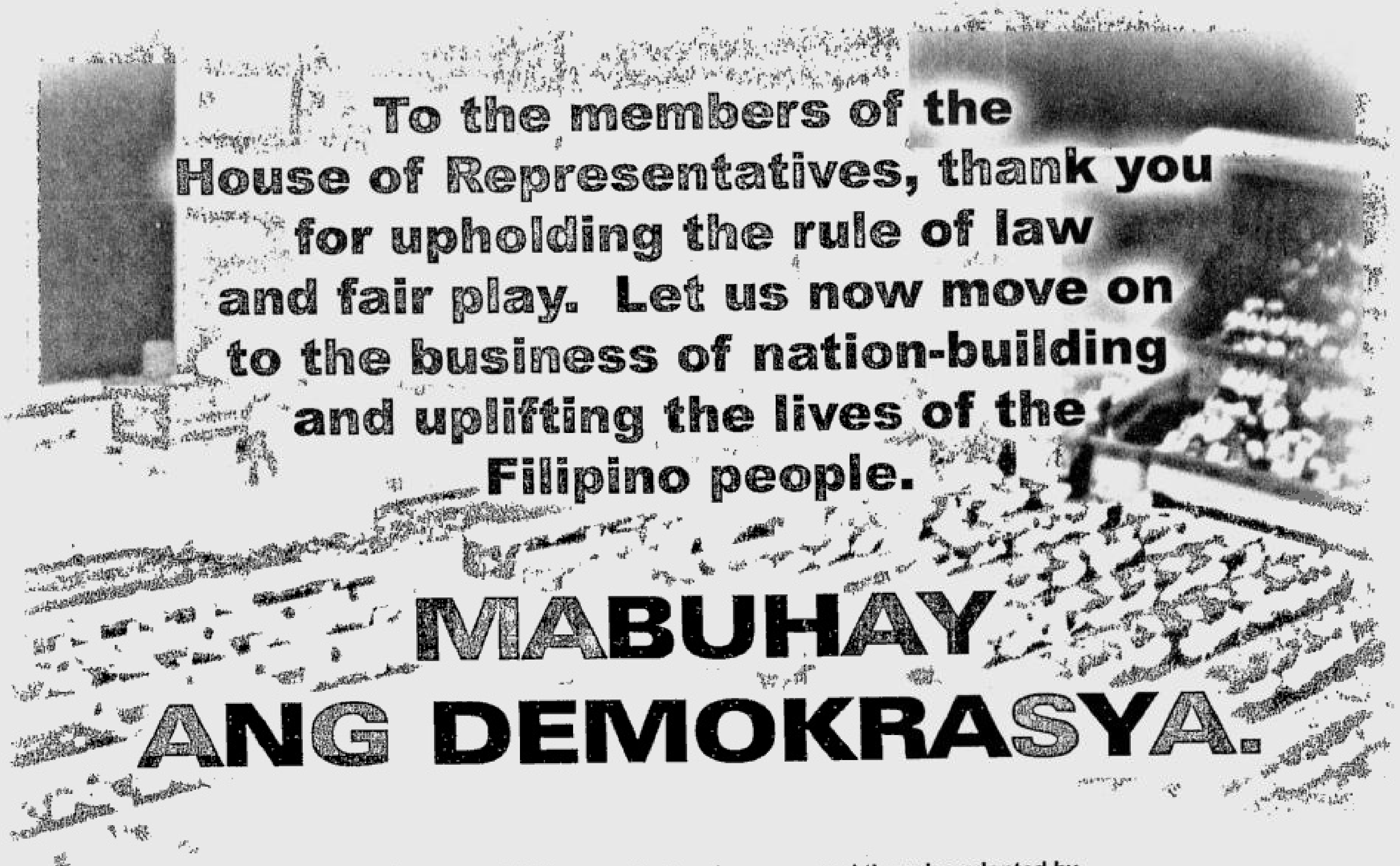

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"In adherence with the constitutional process and the rules adopted by Congress, the Justice Commitee can now submit its report to the plenary for voting. It is important that we move forward and devote our energies to manage the soaring oil prices. Now is the time to work as one."
- DONALD DEE, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

" The House Committee on Justice simply did its job with clear legal procedure and majority rule which is a sacred concept of democracy. Congress should never lose its focus in upholding the rule of law and promoting democracy thru credible reforms and anti-poverty programs."
- Krista Belle Ang, Supreme Student Council President of La Consolacion College Manila

"The House Justice Committee's quick resolve on the impeachment complaint was a favor to the Filipinos. Congress can now focus on more productive tasks."
- FR. CRISPIN VARQUEZ, Parish Priest of Tagbilaran Cathedral

"I laud the Committee on Justice's fast resolution on the impeachment. This will be beneficial to the the country as a whole."
- MR. JAMES DECHOS, Spokesperson of the Leyte Chamber of Commerce

"The decision of the House Committee on Justice to vote on the prejudicial questions is good and deserves our respect."
- SULTAN ABDUL MARCABAN, President of Pagadian City Liga ng mga Barangay

"The Justice Committee conformed to the rules. It is about time that Congress buckle down to work and attend to what is important to this country – solving the financial and energy crisis."
- LYLE CORUÑA, President of Palawan Press Club

"I doff my hat to the House Committee of Justice. The country can now focus on securing its economic survival as oil prices surge to new record levels."
- DR. DENNIS PLACER, President of Masbate Councillors' League

"Let us give the President a chance to implement her reform programs."
- HERMAN COBCOBO, Board Member of Mountain Province

"I praise the Justice Committee for its fast decision. "
- RONQUILLO C. TOLENTINO, Aklan Vice Governor

"The opposition should stop their political maneuvering just to impeach President Arroyo at all cost even beyond constitutional means."
- ROBERT GO, President of the the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

"Opposition congressmen should respect the Committee on Justice."
- MA. THERESA REAL CIPRIANO, Board Member of Zamboanga del Sur

"It is time to get down to work now that the impeachment complaint has been voted down. There are more pressing issues that require serious attention from government leaders."
- YVONEE RANADA, Laoag Councilor

"I hope and pray for the early resolution of the impeachment."
- FILOMENO BACTOL, Bishop of Biliran

"I agree with the decision to dismiss the original complaint. We always demand faster action on the issue."
- PEDRO ROMUALDO, Camiguin Governor

"Sang-ayon ako sa mabilisang desisyon ng Justice Commitee. Ang pulitikong nanggugulo ay karaniwang may vested interest."
- NELSON DAVID, President of the Bataan Mayors League

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

New Orleans searches for dead, living

NEW ORLEANS—A WEEK AFTER HURRICANE Katrina, New Orleans on Monday searched for growing numbers of its dead from the city's worst catastrophe and had not given up on finding more of the living.

As emergency teams scouted flooded homes and streets for bodies, authorities said Louisiana's official death toll of 59 could rise into the thousands.

Rescuers in boats and helicopters were still pulling hundreds of people from rooftops, homes and buildings and police said they were getting 1,000 or more emergency calls for help each day, many from people still trapped in their homes and attics by floodwaters.

Local officials believe thousands remain in the once-vibrant city despite mass evacuations before and after Katrina struck the US Gulf Coast last Monday, hammering an area the size of Britain in one of the biggest natural disasters in American history. Well over 100 deaths have been confirmed in Mississippi, with many people unaccounted for.

Authorities were slowly regaining control of New Orleans after days of murder, rape and looting that horrified America and the world.

The much-beloved Southern city, which lies below sea level, fell into chaos after being swamped by floodwaters when Katrina's force burst protective levees.

The US Army Corps of Engineers said it was making progress toward pumping out the city but still expected it would take 80 days or more to complete the job.

President George W. Bush planned to visit relief efforts in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Poplarville, Mississippi, on Monday—his second trip to the devastated region in less than a week.

His administration, criticized heavily for its slow response to the flooding, sent top officials to the disaster zone on Sunday and pledged to do whatever it took to clean up New Orleans and help its evacuees.

Some battered survivors could not contain their anger.

"We have been abandoned by our own country," Aaron Broussard, president of Jefferson Parish just south of New Orleans, told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Bush has conceded the relief efforts were unacceptable and has ordered 7,200 extra active duty troops to the disaster zone.

Government and emergency officials said it was not the time to assign blame for the troubled rescue efforts but to focus on the challenges ahead.

"We're going to have to go house to house in this city.

We're going to have to check every single place to find people who may be alive and in need of assistance," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said.

Chertoff warned of grim times ahead in the rescue and recovery mission.

"When we remove the water from New Orleans, we're going to uncover people who died hiding in houses, who got caught by the flood, people whose remains will be found in the street.

"It is going to be about as ugly a scene as you can imagine."

Signs of hope were emerging for the stricken city. Lights began to go on in some neighborhoods when the local power company began restoring electricity.

National Guard troops and US marshals patrolled once chaotic streets, while some residents joined the Coast Guard in rescue efforts.

In New Orleans' notoriously poor 9th district, police launched search missions with small speed boats to find bodies and survivors.

The tips of roofs poked out from water bubbling from burst gas mains, and, in one spot, a swelling corpse floated on floodwaters.

Hundreds of thousands of internal refugees from the disaster in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama were dispersing to states across the country as they confronted how to rebuild shattered lives. *Reuters*

CUBAN President Fidel Castro Sept. 4 put on display some 1,500 doctors shown above with their medical backpacks, in hopes of persuading archenemy the US to allow them to treat victims of Hurricane Katrina. Castro said the US had not responded to his offer to send the medical workers and 26 tons of supplies to the devastated US Gulf Coast. REUTERS

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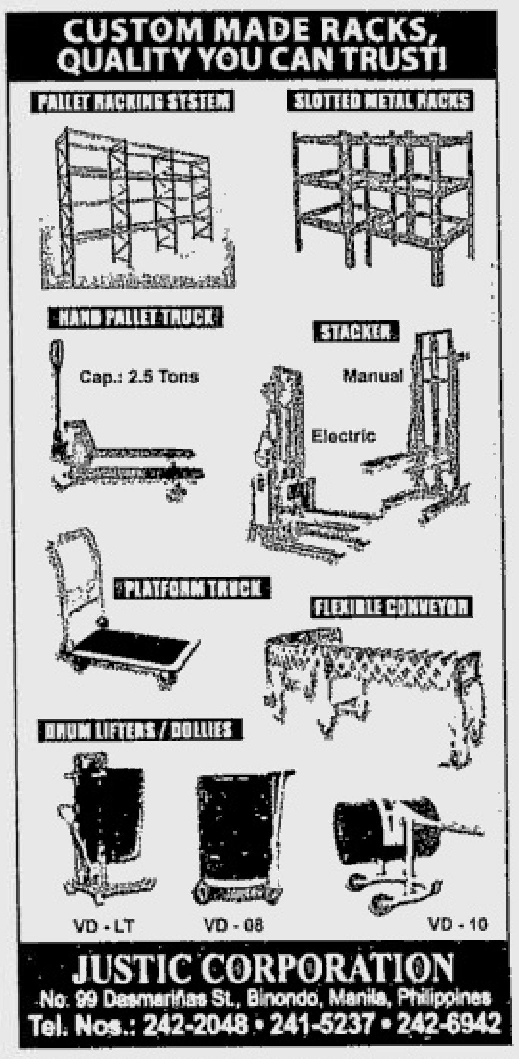

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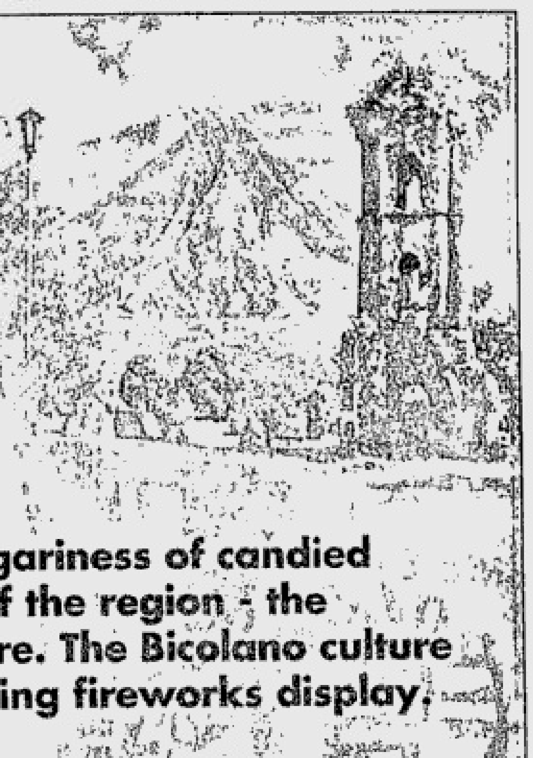

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

September 7 (Wednesday) CAMARINES SUR DAY
For twelve hours, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, be witness to the special Kaogma Festival, presentations (Plaza Quezon) by the Bicol Heritage Singers & Dancers, LRV Orchestra, Vision Band, String Ensemble, LREY Exponent Band, Andrew E., Salbakuta & Karylle.

September 8 (Thursday) CATANDUANES DAY
The Catandungan Festival awaits the lucky tourist on this day. The Hablon Dawani, CSC Laboratory High School Local Band are ready to entertain you.

September 9 (Friday) NAGA CITY DAY
The Food Festival has gastronomic wonders for all. The Traslacion Procession (venue: Basilica to Cathedral) and cultural presentations have been prepared.

September 10 (Saturday) REGIONAL DAY
Food Festivals, street dancing, beauty contests, cocktails, musical extravaganzas and fireworks displays makes this day a special one, indeed.

September 11 (Sunday) MASBATE PROVINCE DAY
The Muro-Ami Himag-Ulaw Festival (venue: Plaza Quezon) festivals, cultural and musical presentations have been set up for the fortunate tourists.

September 12 (Monday) MASBATE CITY DAY
The Lapay Bantigue Festival (venue: Plaza Quezon) features a special cultural presentation - the Best of Lapay Extravaganza.

September 13 (Tuesday) IRIGA CITY DAY
The Tinagba Festival in Iriga has numerous cultural presentations in which one can lose himself in bliss.

September 14 (Wednesday) ALBAY/LIGAO CITY DAY
The Magayon, Pinangat Festival and Sarung Banggi (venue: Plaza Rizal) features a unique performer - top Filipino Magician, Mr. Lou Hilario!

September 15 (Thursday) LEGAZPI CITY DAY
The Ibalong Festival is a special occasion indeed. The occasion shall be used to launch the Visit Legazpi City 2006 and Albay Coffee Table Books.

September 16 (Friday) TABACO CITY DAY
Cultural presentations by the Legend of Tabak, TNHS Dance Troupe and musical by Miles Poblete & Local Band will grace the Tabak Festival.

September 17 (Saturday) CAMARINES NORTE DAY
This day is highlighted by the Fluvial Procession along the Naga River. There will other cultural presentations throughout the day.

September 18 (Sunday) SORSOGON PROVINCE/CITY DAY
Cultural programs punctuate the day with the launching of Pasyalan 2006, Tiriladan sa Dalan, Pantomina sa Tinampo, Pili Festival and cultural presentations.

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Official Statement on the Impeachment Process:

LET US ABIDE BY THE VOTE…
IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON!

Ever since the present turmoil was painted on the political landscape, the League had advocated for the Rule of Law.

We therefore urged all those calling for the President's resignation to work within the bounds of the Constitution.

We congratulate the political opposition for heeding our call by going through the impeachment process. However, we are at the same time disturbed by their actuations in one of the House Justice Committee hearings when they walked out on the proceedings, with some of them giving a veiled threat to once again take their cause to the streets.

This, we believe, is uncalled for. The impeachment process at the Committee Level has been fair and proper—with both opposition and administration Congressmen signing to indorse the amended complaint on impeachment.

We once again urge our Honorable Representatives of the People to act with sobriety, maintain the same level of dignity, and decide according to their conscience when the plenary debates and voting commence at the House.

Meanwhile, we laud our Congressmen for steering the impeachment complaint through the process and the Justice Committee has decided.
We trust that this would be over soon, with the forthcoming plenary voting.
The sooner these things are over, the better for all of us: Congress can now attend to the vital concerns of government.

We again voice out this clarion call: **LET US ABIDE BY THE VOTE! IT IS TIME FOR OUR DEMOCRACY TO MOVE ON!**

Certified Correct:

Sgd. **Hon. Mel Senen Sarmiento**
Secretary General
Calbayog City Mayor

Approved by:

Sgd. **Hon. Jerry P. Treñas**
President
Ilo-ilo City Mayor

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Kosovo's president has cancer

PRISTINA, SERBIA-Montenegro—Kosovo's President Ibrahim Rugova has cancer, a government official told The Associated Press Sunday.

It was not immediately clear what was Rugova's current condition, according to the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The official did not disclose any other details.

Rugova is expected to make a televised address on Monday.

He returned home on Saturday after spending a week at the US military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany after a sudden deterioration in his health.

Kept secret

His condition had remained shrouded in secrecy during that time, with his associates offering no details on his ailment for nearly 10 days. That fueled fears of a possible slowdown of the process leading to talks on the province's future, planned for later this year.

A statement issued by his office late Saturday said Rugova will take up his presidential duties again, but he will be under medical care in his residence in Pristina.

Initially, Rugova was treated by doctors in Pristina and at the main US military base in Kosovo, Camp Bondsteel, before being taken to Germany.

In his last public appearance before flying to Germany, Rugova was visibly frail and spoke with a weak voice during a ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the first Catholic cathedral in Kosovo's capital.

Freedom bid

The 61-year-old leader, who has cult status among some ethnic Albanians, has been at the forefront of their demand for independence from Serbia since the early 1990s, when he led a nonviolent movement against the policies of then Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbs want Kosovo to remain part of Serbia-Montenegro, a union that replaced Yugoslavia.

Rugova's possible departure from office due to ill health would leave Kosovo's political scene in disarray at the most sensitive time since the end of the war in 1999.

Talks to determine Kosovo's future are to take place later this year—if the province reaches internationally set standards on human rights, rights of minorities and rule of law.

Until recently, Rugova led the Democratic League of Kosovo, the province's biggest political party, which has won two general elections since the UN began running the disputed province in 1999. The UN came in after a NATO air war aimed at stopping the crackdown by Serb forces on independence-seeking ethnic Albanians. *AP*

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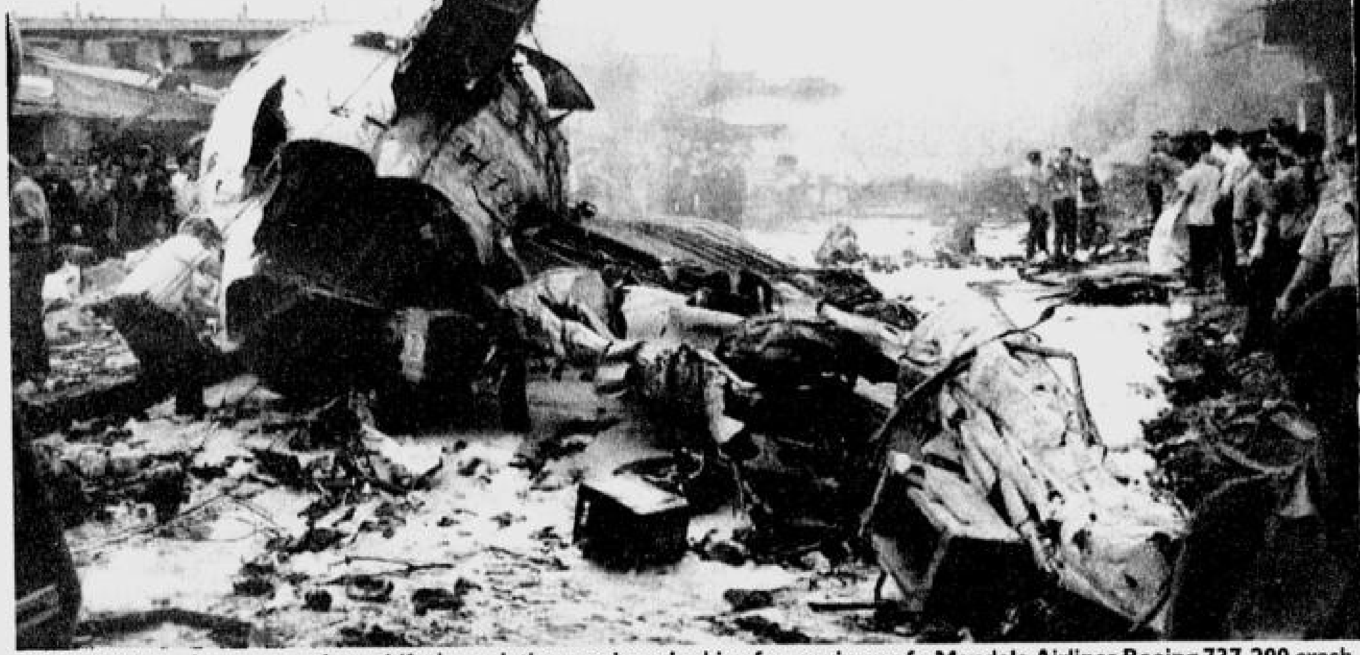
Indonesia plane crashes in city; more than 130 dead



RESIDENTS and rescue workers shift through the wreckage looking for survivors of a Mandala Airlines Boeing 737-200 crash which was carrying 117 passengers in Medan, North Sumatra, Sept. 5.

MEDAN, INDONESIA—A BOEING 737-200 crashed in a residential area of Indonesia's third biggest city just after takeoff on Monday, killing more than 100 people onboard as well as 30 bystanders in an inferno on the ground.

A spokesperson for local carrier Mandala Airlines said several passengers had survived the crash in Medan, contradicting the city's top rescue official who said all 117 onboard died. The official Antara news agency put the number of survivors at six.

The plane was carrying 112 passengers and five crew.

"I could not believe it. After taking off, the plane really shook and then suddenly it plummeted to a main road on top of the cars below," passenger Freddy Ismail told El Shinta radio station from hospital. His name was on the passenger manifest.

Mandala's director Asril Tanjung said the cause of the crash was being investigated, but added foul play was highly unlikely.

Zainul Kahar, head of operations at Medan's search and rescue agency, said 30 people on the ground were also killed.

The plane slammed into the heart of a major residential area in the capital of North Sumatra province, breaking into pieces, setting fire to homes, cars and motorbikes, and sparking widespread panic, witnesses said.

"I arrived around 10 minutes after the accident. Burning bodies were everywhere," one local reporter said from the scene.

"Around 10 houses were burned, along with five to six minibuses. The plane was torn into pieces, we could only see the tail."

Survivors on the ground ran about frantically screaming the names of their relatives, added the reporter.

Among those onboard the flight were the North Sumatra governor and his predecessor.

Fierce flames licked at the wreckage as it lay on one of Medan's main roads before fire crews were able to extinguish the blazes. Plumes of thick black smoke rose into the air.

Kahar said some 20 homes were damaged by fire.

Roni, an emergency room nurse at Medan's Adam Malik hospital, said it was chaos as victims were brought in. Other hospital officials said most were burnt beyond recognition.

"Ambulances keep going back and forth bringing the victims, who are both passengers and residents. Some are still alive, some are dead," Roni told Reuters.

Mandala's Tanjung said the plane had been made in 1981 and was fit for eight more years of flying. It was not raining when the plane took off, witnesses said.

"Temporarily, we are saying the cause is from takeoff failure but we don't know yet whether it was from engine trouble, human error or weather," Tanjung told Reuters.

The plane came down 500 meters from the runway in Medan, Transport Minister Hatta Radjasa told El Shinta radio station. It was en route to Jakarta.

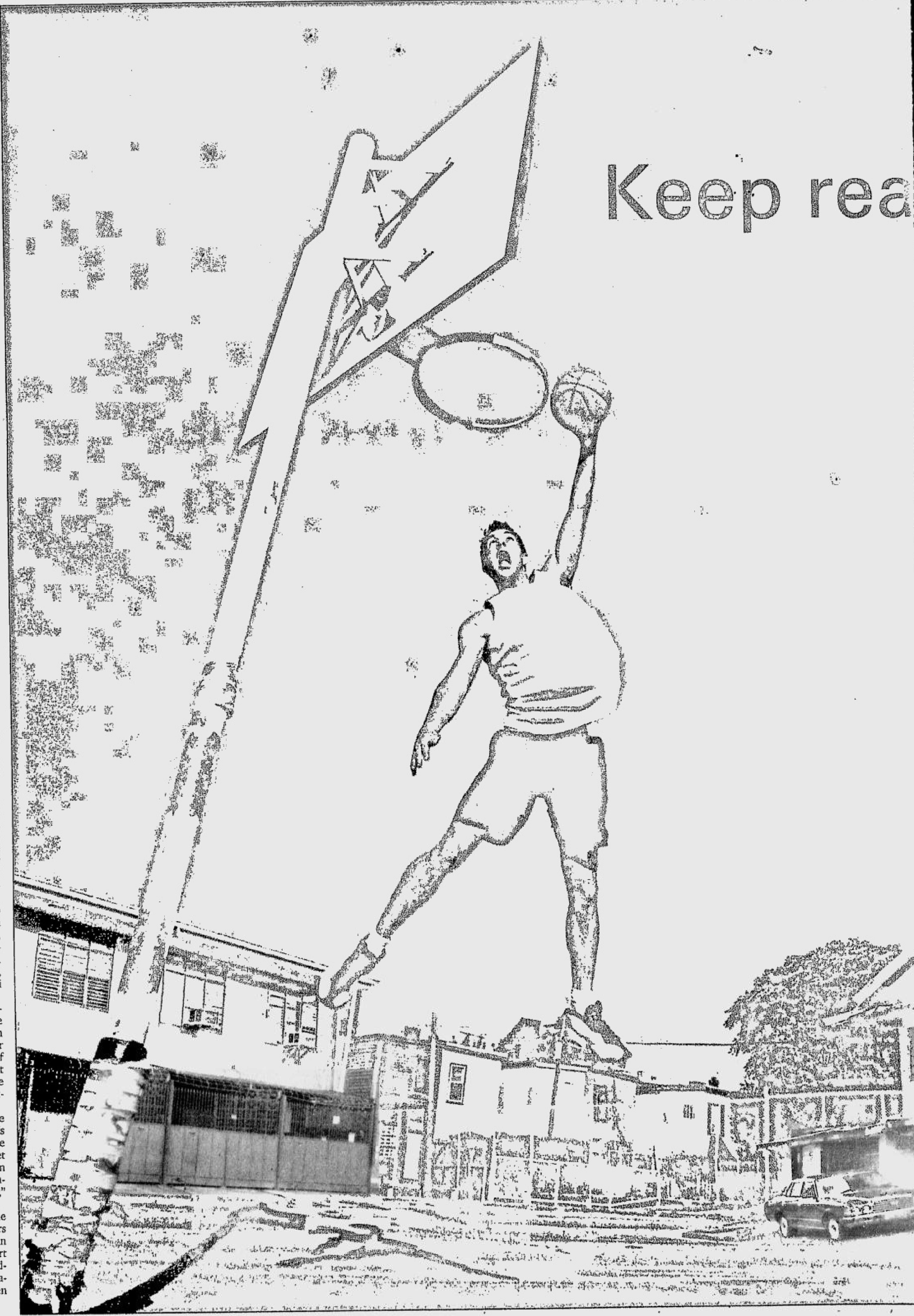
Medan, 1,425 km northwest of Jakarta, is the main gateway for aid into tsunami-hit Aceh province.

A few hours after the crash, heavy rain began to fall, hindering recovery efforts.

Mandala Airlines is one of Indonesia's oldest private carriers, operating a number of Boeing 737s. It competes in a crowded market since the establishment of numerous budget airlines in the past five years.

Indonesia's worst air crash occurred in September 1997, when a Garuda Airbus A-300B4 crashed in a mountainous area near Medan, killing all 222 passengers and 12 crew on board.

Reuters



World seen at greater risk than ever from terror

TOKYO—FRANCE'S TOP TERRORISM INVESTIGATOR said in an interview published Monday that the world was at a greater risk than ever from Islamic extremists and that Japan was closely cooperating to probe militants.

Jean-Louis Bruguiere warned in an interview in Paris with the Japanese daily Sankei Shimbun that Japan and other Pacific nations such as Australia and Singapore could be the target of global extremist groups.

"I sense more danger now than at the time of last spring's Madrid bombings and the London bombings in July," he said, referring to the March 2004 train bombings in Spain and the attacks on London transport two months ago.

"Based on our comprehensive examination of terror organizations, I can say there is no region that is free from terror attacks," Bruguiere told the Japanese daily.

The French investigator made similar comments last month to Britain's Financial Times, warning that Asia was not as prepared as Western countries for a big attack.

Japan, a close US ally, is putting as many as 13,600 police on antiterror watch before next Sunday's election. Islamic militants bombed Madrid trains three days before last year's general election in which a conservative government was defeated.

Al-Qaida has repeatedly threatened Japan, which hosts the largest US military presence in Asia and stations troops in Iraq.

The Sankei Shimbun said Bruguiere might visit Japan, at the end of this year at the earliest, to investigate French Muslim suspect Lionel Dumont who allegedly raised money to build an extremist network in Japan.

"We are really cooperating with Japanese police," Bruguiere said. "They are really good."

Dumont came to Japan in March 2002 and worked at a used car shop in the central prefecture of Niigata. He was arrested in Germany in December 2003 for non-terrorist offenses.

Bruguiere has overseen the arrest of more than 500 terrorism suspects over the past 20 years, heading up a specialist team of judges who work alongside antiterrorist police and intelligence agents. *AFP*

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AFP

Taiwan labor minister offers to quit over riot staged by migrant workers

TAIPEI — TAIWAN'S Labor Minister Chen Chu said Monday she has offered to resign over a riot by some 300 Thai workers protesting at poor living conditions as police began questioning a small group of workers over their roles in the unrest.

"I have tendered my resignation to the premier for the riot by Thai workers ... in tandem with the political ideals and human rights I have been striving for for more than 30 years," Chen told reporters.

Chen, who heads the Cabinet-level Council of Labor Affairs, said she felt she must take responsibility for the Aug. 21 unrest, in which some 300 Thai workers vandalized a construction site near the southern city of Kaohsiung.

They set fire to their canteen and attacked police and firefighters with slingshots.

"Taiwan's international image has been marred by the event," Chen said, adding that she hopes her resignation would revive faith in the government.

Thailand has said it would delay sending some 800 more workers to Taiwan pending reviews of the contracts of all its overseas laborers.

A government investigation concluded last week that the Kaohsiung subway construction company which employed the workers was to blame for the riot.

"The labor riot erupted because foreign workers' basic rights were not respected and their working conditions were not protected," the report said.

"It is obvious that there are serious flaws in the management of foreign labor on the part of the employer, which ought to be corrected soon."

The Council of Labor Affairs along with the Kaohsiung city and county governments were also responsible for the dispute for failing to supervise the Kaohsiung Rapid Transit Co. (KRTC), it added.

The KRTC had already been banned from recruiting more foreign workers pending improvement of its management, the report said.

Police said they questioned at least three Thai workers Monday over their alleged roles in the riot. Local newspapers said investigations had shown that around 20 workers had instigated the unrest and could be prosecuted. *AFP*

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•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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Exposed and humbled

EDITORIAL

IT WAS A SURPRISING SIGHT ON TELEVISION—the spectacle of the world's mightiest power laid low and humbled by the elemental forces of nature. The winds and rain of Hurricane Katrina killed thousands of people, devastated about $100 billion in public and private property and flooded a vast area of the American South.

What has been called America's deadliest natural disaster in a century also brought out the lack of preparedness of a superpower that could invade and overrun another country thousands of miles away in a matter of days. Food, water and medicines were unavailable for days for tens of thousands of evacuees in crowded, sweltering evacuation centers. Law and order broke down, and looters, killers and rapists, particularly in New Orleans, roamed and operated at will until the National Guard belatedly stepped in and restored some semblance of order. The entire debacle saw the United States failing its first major test after putting up new security arrangements since 9/11.

What are the lessons of Katrina? The first is environmental: one cannot fool around with the environment and not expect it to hit back with destructive fury. It's the law of ecological karma. American columnist Ross Gelbspan said, "The hurricane that struck Louisiana and Mississippi was nicknamed Katrina by the National Weather Service [but] its real name was global warming."

The unabated use of polluting fossil fuels has caused global warming and many scientists fear that the world may have entered a period of irreversible climate change. We can feel it here in the Philippines where typhoons have become stronger and more destructive, where the level of flood waters is constantly rising and where sometimes the weather is reversed, with rains falling in usually dry months and drought occurring in usually wet months.

The second lesson is the need for preparedness. It cannot be said that the US was not warned about the coming of Katrina. Days before it finally struck land, TV stations were running hourly bulletins about Katrina. In the meantime, very little was done to shore up installations or board up buildings. Ultimately, in some areas in the direct path of the hurricane, boarding up would have done little to mitigate the damage. The hurricane was so fierce and powerful that it mowed down everything in its path. But the death of thousands could have been prevented had they been evacuated before the hurricane. Some people thought evacuation was not necessary. In the face of an impending natural disaster, it is always better to err on the side of caution.

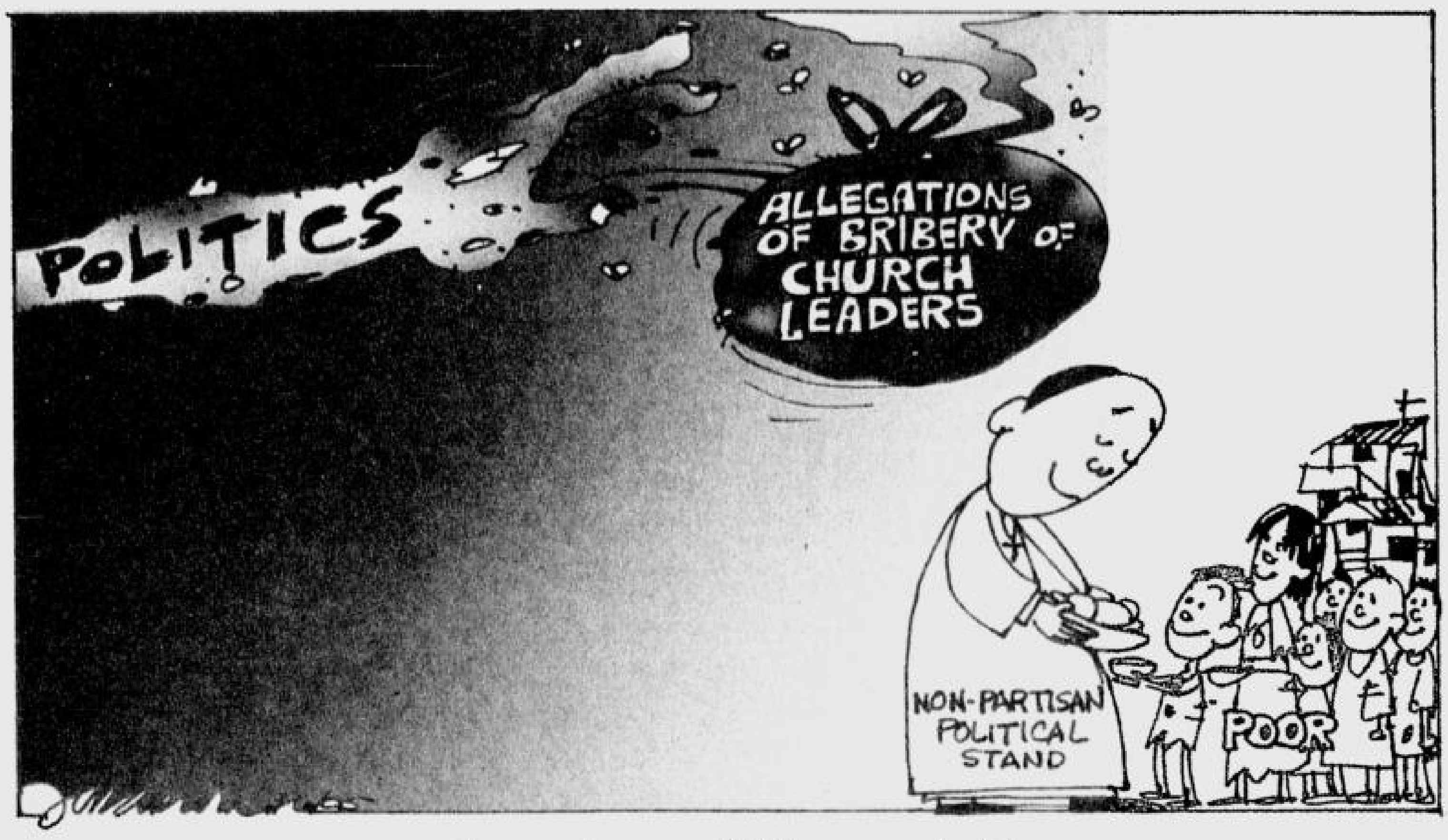
The US government should have been prepared to cope with the logistical nightmare of moving tens of thousands of people, feeding them, providing them with clean water, clothing them, giving them temporary shelter and ministering to their medical and health needs. New Orleans pointed up the lack of preparedness of the government.

The third lesson of Katrina is the need to study scenarios of the aftermath of a disaster, prepare for the relocation of people and the reconstruction of their homes and infrastructure. In this regard, American and Philippine officials (for the Philippines is a disaster-prone country) would do well to study the rehabilitation and reconstruction work being done by Indonesia in Aceh and Nias, two of the areas hardest hit by the tsunami last December.

The rehabilitation and reconstruction program was discussed last week in a session of the Asian-European Editors' Forum held in Jakarta under the auspices of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The program is based on "the principles of transparency, accountability, participation and responsibility by giving preference to wider community interest and [is] free from corruption, collusion and nepotism." That part about corruption and collusion should be noted by Philippine government officials, for it will be recalled that billions of pesos were lost to corruption in the relief and reconstruction work for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

The Indonesian program keeps government participation to a minimum; non-government organizations bear the brunt of the work. About $6 billion to $8 billion is being allocated for the rehabilitation and reconstruction program, and of this about half will come from the government and half from international donors and NGOs.

Right now, nothing can be done to reduce the force and destructiveness of hurricanes and typhoons, but people and government can always do something to prepare for their coming, mitigate the damage they inflict and avoid the deaths that they cause.


POLITICS
ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY OF CHURCH LEADERS
NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL STAND
POOR

Looting of the spirit

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"A MAJORITY IS ALWAYS THE BEST REPARTEE," Benjamin Disraeli once told the House of Commons.

Administration congressmen heeded the Tory legislator. With a 54-to-2 vote in committee, they shredded the impeachment charges against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Outnumbered and outflanked, opposition representatives stalked out, earlier than planned. To wring additional publicity, some lofted documents into the air.

"A walkout is first option of the defeated," scoffed the majority.

The minority, so far, hasn't corralled 79 votes. That's the number needed to retrieve impeachment from House wastebaskets and lob it to the Senate.

Spokespersons Francis Escudero, Gilbert Remulla, Alan Peter Cayetano and Edmundo Reyes blame "oppression" for their failure. They are bright, articulate, smug—and clueless about history of walkouts that backfire.

On 27 June 1950, the Soviet Union's Andrei Gromyko stomped out of the Security Council. In his absence, the Council adopted a resolution that inserted a military force in Korea. Fifty-five years later, the UN flag still flutters in Panmunjon and Russians dropped the walkout as a tool of limited effect.

"The absent are always wrong," the French say. Thus, the savvy Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. stayed put and voted "no."

The House justice committee, chaired by Rep. Simeon Datumanong, went for the jugular. But Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan preferred more slack. "Given the serious charges against the President, the prudent thing would have been to allow the minority more leeway," he said. "Anyway, the administration had the numbers."

If the minority expected anything else, that would be naïveté. In the real world, a regime will defend itself even as the opposition will attack. "There's no act of treachery or meanness of which a political party is incapable," Disraeli wrote in 1826. "In politics there is no honor."

The opposition has a last chance to prove this week at the House plenary session that it has "Disraeli's repartee"—79 warm bodies who'll sign on the dotted line.

"Ghost voters," scoffs the majority. The plenary will show us, one way or the other.

But this legal rubout will not provide closure and restore stability. The flood of pessimistic questions about the future hasn't subsided, raising the probability of recurring crises.

To sense that skepticism, you can ignore an opposition as tainted as the regime. The President's credibility is no higher than that of San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, with his impeccable dictatorship service credentials, or Sen. Franklin Drilon's raw ambitions.

You see the doubts in e-mail traffic from ordinary citizens to fora of religious and civic groups.

We must judge and bear on our legislators "based on evidence, our right to truth and our sense of right and wrong," says the e-Mandirigma campaigns. That ranges from mail campaigns to street protests.

"I'm disturbed," a 14-year-old Baguio high school student e-mailed. "The quality of our leaders is deplorable... Elections are systematized bribery. I'm tempted to migrate but don't want to. Is there hope for me?"

Indeed, people are pissed off by "leaders" who work by the standard that others are the bigger crooks. *"Babati-bati, bukas ang labi,"* the old Filipino proverb says. He criticizes yet is hare-lipped.

"A plague on both your houses," Mercutio screamed as he lay dying in a Verona alley. In Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet," the feud between Montagues and Capulets made "worm food" of innocent people like Mercutio.

People gag because politicians made "worm food" of their lives. We've become, thanks to our leaders, a nation where barely half of enrollees make it past Grade 6. Our TB rates are quadruple that of Indonesia. Four out of 10 Filipinos are chronically hungry. And two out of every four would migrate, given half a chance.

"Our leaders didn't just raid the treasury," Cebu Daily News notes. "They plundered the country of hope. Worse, they sealed off the future to the young. Is there a price tag for looting of the spirit?"

Beyond the impeachment head counts, people feel they've been ripped off in issues that really matter. INQUIRER's Randy David perceptively puts his finger on this festering sore:

Many feel "it's necessary to keep hammering on the truths that allow us to dismantle the old culture and build a new nation... What good does it do [the President] who avoids being impeached, but loses her moral right to govern? That is the question."

Indeed, "what does it profit a man" has always been the capstone question over the years. However this impeachment drill ends, plunder of values, by both regime and opposition, cannot continue. Tomorrow will not be another today.

Deep mistrust of leaders underscores the folly of hoping for "men on white chargers." The way out of this quagmire is for ordinary citizens, in their daily lives and work, to demand truth and accountability beyond the rules.

"We simply plant seeds that one day will grow," the Nobel Laureate Archbishop Oscar Romero said before his assassination. "Nothing we do is complete. This enables us to do something, and do it very well.

"We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. We may never see the end results. We are workers, not master builders, servant-leaders, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own."

* * *

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Clean conscience

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD THE JOKE SOME YEARS AGO IN reference to Ernesto Maceda. It said Maceda holds the record for the fastest open-heart surgery in the country. The doctors opened his chest and then closed it right back again. They found no heart.

I remembered that last Sunday when I read about outgoing CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla saying it wasn't wrong for the Church to accept money from state-run gambling operations. He is one of those accused of doing so. "My conscience is clear," he said. Well, that is because he hasn't got one.

Someone from Pagcor earlier tagged Capalla, along with Cebu Archbishop Cardinal Ricardo Vidal and Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, as being beneficiaries of Pagcor Chair Ephraim Genuino's beneficence. "The principle of morality does not apply in this situation," says Capalla. There is nothing wrong with accepting money from gambling operations, so long as it directly benefits the poor. Quoting Vidal, he said, "I'd rather be criticized than let the poor die of sickness or hunger."

Well, the principle of morality has never had a narrower range of application than during his time as head of the CBCP. Quite fortuitously, at about the same time he was defending taking Pagcor money to help the needy, the local government officials who had gathered in Puerto Princesa for a meeting under the aegis of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines were complaining about one thing. Why was it, they asked, that when the bishops took *jueteng* money it was called aid, while when they did so it was called a bribe? Good question.

That reminds me of the time I appeared in a talk show ages ago. The topic was whether it was all right for entertainers who had been voted into office to continue doing movies or appearing in television. Joey Marquez proceeded to say it was fully justified in his case because he used his earnings as an entertainer to give to the poor. The budget of mayor of Parañaque just wasn't enough to improve the lives of his constituents, he said, so he needed to supplement it with his personal income. I confess I was taken aback, being completely unprepared for that argument. I just said vaguely that he must be exceptionally altruistic, a veritable saint, since not every entertainer-cum-mayor did that. I couldn't very well say, "Goddamn man, I didn't know you could lie through your teeth barefacedly."

As it is, there is a difference in claiming that you are giving the money you earn as entertainer to the poor and claiming that you are giving the gambling money you receive as bishop to the poor. Money derived from entertainment is at least legitimate, however you can raise all sorts of questions about the propriety of earning it while serving as a public official. Money received from gambling lords—and Pagcor is the biggest gambling lord of all—is plain blood money.

Experience, if not medicine, has at least determined that accepting blood money produces the pathological effect of robbing you of three of your five senses: sight, hearing and the use of your mouth. You see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil. It affects even archbishops. In fact, I don't know, as suggested by the case of Capalla, that it doesn't rob archbishops in particular of all their senses, including smell and touch. Capalla for one can't seem to smell the stench surrounding Malacañang, which has nothing to do with its proximity to the Pasig River. Or touch it.

It was Capalla who rushed to say, along with Benjamin Abalos and Bill Luz, that the last elections were as pure as holy water, give or take a contamination or two, and committed the entire congregation of bishops to it. Abalos at least you can excuse for not knowing how to count votes, even if he probably knows how to count bills. Hell, he couldn't even count the number of weeks the illegal bidder he awarded the contract to computerize canvassing to had been in existence. And Luz at least had 83 percent of the election results, largely from GMA bailiwicks, to rely on, give or take an improvement on reality or two. Capalla had nothing to go on but the word of the lord. I don't know which lord.

It was Capalla who left Archbishop Oscar Cruz twisting in the wind during the latter's exposé of the involvement of top government officials in jueteng. At no time did Cruz get help from his favorite congregation of bishops, even as his witnesses began disappearing from him, which he presumed to be the product of Pagcor et al. donating to his witnesses' favorite charities which were themselves, and even as he wept at the sight of a country turning into Sodom and Gomorrah. At the time, Cruz wasn't just showing the presidential husband and son to be the godfathers of jueteng, he was showing that if you wanted to help the poor, the divinely and humanly blessed route was not to accept gambling money to give to the poor but to stop gambling which was making the poor poorer. What little GMA left behind, Bong Pineda and ilk were siphoning off with a vacuum cleaner.

The notion that it is all right for an archbishop to accept gambling money because he is desperate to give to the poor makes about as much sense as the notion that it is all right for presidential candidate to cheat in elections because she is desperate to serve the people. The premise voids the conclusion. Experience again, if not medicine, has determined that receiving gambling money produces the pathological effect of making you think when you say, "I'd rather be criticized than let the poor die of sickness or hunger," that you are the poor.

I remember yet another joke told by a friend who smokes heavily. The doctor, he said, had just declared him to have clean lungs: no more lungs.

Nice to have a clean conscience.

Respect the outcome

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE OPPOSITION SEEMS TO HAVE GONE FULL circle. As I was writing this column yesterday, various political analysts as well as opposition leaders like Sen. Aquilino Pimentel were saying that the pro-impeachment cause appears to be dead and that the opposition cannot get the needed 79 votes to send the complaint to the Senate. This realization, however, seems to have made some opposition leaders, including former President Cory Aquino, decide to go back to the streets. This is unfortunate. They should accept the verdict of the House instead of taking their cause to the streets.

* * *

One big reason the opposition failed to get its amended complaint accepted by the majority in the House was that they entered the impeachment arena too late. For weeks, they tried to rally crowds to support their call for GMA's resignation, and dismissed and derided the impeachment process. When GMA did not resign, they reluctantly joined the impeachment process, but their amended complaint was deemed by the majority to be barred by the Constitution which allows only one complaint to be filed in a given year.

Now that the opposition has lost the vote regarding which complaint to tackle, and will lose in the plenary, Cory Aquino and Eddie Villanueva want people to go to the streets. But Cory's friends and supporters from Edsa days have apparently deserted her and have flocked to GMA, judging from the ads put out by "over 600 top independent women of civil society." These women leaders lament the insanity of taking the case against GMA to the streets and have categorically said they won't join it.

* * *

Why did the impeachment move fail? Aside from the delay in filing the amended complaint, the walkout by opposition congressmen last Wednesday, where they displayed unruly behavior, hurt them a lot. They gave the impression that the opposition was dominated by bratty and arrogant young people who kept perpetually complaining about everything. This got the thinking crowd to wonder: *Ang mga ito ba ang magiging makapangyarihan pag-exit ni GMA?*

* * *

Another reason was, as many pundits have pointed out, there's a lack of credible alternative to GMA as well as credible leaders of their cause. Star columnist Carmen Pedrosa pointed out that one man who could have sent Imelda Marcos to jail during her trial in New York City many years ago was Rep. Ronaldo Zamora (who served as her bagman and later Executive Secretary of deposed President Joseph Estrada). But Pedrosa, who covered that trial in the early 1990s, pointed out that Zamora refused to testify in the trial and tell the truth about Imelda. Had he testified, Imelda could have been convicted since the prosecution would have been able to prove her direct culpability. Now Zamora is the leader of the opposition's prosecution team and is determined to go after the "truth" regarding GMA's alleged cheating during the elections.

* * *

Soon after resigned Cabinet members Florencio Abad and Corazon Soliman came out last Tuesday with their disclosure about the alleged reason GMA refused to let go of Pagcor chief Efraim Genuino, I lamented their irresponsibility and unfairness in maligning wholesale media practitioners as well as the bishops. Abad and Soliman, obviously timing their "exposé" to bolster the walkout by the opposition, had quoted GMA as saying that Genuino "takes care of the media and the bishops." But they did not name names. Predictably, the media pressed Pagcor for the identity of the bishops who accepted donations, forcing Archbishop Fernando Capalla to explain that there was nothing immoral about accepting those donations as they went to projects for the poor. And indeed there's something in that argument, except that it diminishes the bishops' hard-line opposition to all forms of gambling.

* * *

I heard that many bishops are understandably angry at Abad and Soliman for implicating them. This is ironic, for after all Cory Aquino and Franklin Drilon had earlier sought to get the bishops on their side. Two weeks ago, they called on Iloilo Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to join them in asking the House to send the complaint to the Senate, where Drilon's group was eagerly awaiting for it in what Speaker Jose de Venecia termed a "kangaroo court." The revelation of Abad and Soliman is only one of the mistakes made by the opposition.

To my mind, it only shows that there is no such thing as black and white, as the movement insists. For instance, the bishops accepted Pagcor donations from legalized gambling, since these could help them undertake projects for the poor. There is nothing immoral about that, say the bishops. By the same token, perhaps it can be argued, as GMA claims, that she called the Comelec official not to influence the count, but to make sure her votes were protected, since there is rampant cheating in every election. She insists she did nothing wrong, and that her conscience is clear.

* * *

Former PCSO chair and now director Manuel Morato thinks he knows why Cory Aquino is all fired up against GMA. This may be due to what he calls the "Dinky connection with Cory." Morato says he knows a number of members of the family of Soliman, and they said that her father, Godofredo "Nene" Juliano, worked for many years as *encargado* in Hacienda Luisita. In addition, Soliman had a doctor-aunt, now 84 years old, who worked in the hacienda. According to Morato, because of her father's work with the Cojuangcos, Soliman frequented Aquino's place and would report to her everything about GMA. Toward the end, he opined, she began to poison Aquino's mind about GMA even as she continued to work for the President.

The ISM dispute

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY TODAY, WE SHOULD KNOW IF THE scheduled auction of the International School of Manila (ISM) has transpired and who the buyers, if any, are. The auction was ordered by the Department of Labor and Employment in fulfillment of a "Writ of Execution" in response to a ruling by the Supreme Court granting the demand of Filipino teachers in the school for payment of back wages and retirement pay adjustments in the wake of a judgment that Filipino or Philippine-based teachers were entitled to "parity" in wages as their colleagues who were hired abroad.

I'd written on this issue some months ago, and before I write anything else about the dispute between the teachers' union and the school administration, I'd like to address, however belatedly, an allegation raised in the wake of that column.

Shortly after the column came out, the ISM Board of Trustees published an open letter, in the form of a full-page advertisement in this paper, responding to and contradicting some of the contents of the columns of this writer and of former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz. I won't go into the alleged "mish-mash of half-truths and false assertions" that my esteemed colleague and I are supposed to have peddled. Let me go directly instead to a statement at the end of that "open letter" that I feel needs some response, even if months late.

In the last paragraph of that "open letter," the ISM BOT accused the ISAE, the teachers' union, of "waging a media storm, with the help—paid or unpaid—of its contacts and connections."

* * *

I WAS abroad at the time the ad came out, and though friends told me that I had been mentioned, no one saw fit to show me the ad itself (to be fair, I wasn't all that curious, either) or to point out the sly insinuation at the end. In fact, upon my return to the country, when I agreed to meet with ISM superintendent David Toze and ISM BOT president lawyer Chuck Medel in the home of a mutual friend, who's an ISM parent, no one among them sought to clarify whether I was "paid or unpaid" by the ISAE teachers, even after I told them that while I'd heard about the ad, I hadn't seen it yet.

Well, for the record, let me state here that ISAE president Raquel David Ching, who's no relation, as well as the ISAE did not and have not paid me for meeting with them or writing about their case against ISM. For the record, let me state here that all the "payment" I got was an excellent dinner at the Embassy Restaurant and then again just last week at Le Souffle, both at the Fort. Oh, and I might add that ISAE member Neni Sta. Romana Cruz also threw in a free copy of her new book on Filipino names.

You might say this accounting proves I'm either an honest journalist or a very cheap buy, but I assure you, I don't need to even be fed to write about issues I really care about. Messrs. Toze and Medel would know that to be true, since they didn't have to pay me either, or even spring for the cake that my friend served the afternoon we met.

* * *

A TWO-PART series in the business section on the planned auction of ISM had for the headline of the second installment that the school "only had itself to blame."

I'm inclined to agree with this assessment. After all, if the ISM board had only obeyed the ruling of the Supreme Court in June 2000 granting equal pay to Philippines-hired teachers and resolving the 1995 CBA deadlock they would not now be facing an enormous cash obligation.

While Filipino and other locally-hired teachers indeed began to enjoy "pay parity" with the foreign hires, the ISM persisted in questioning the ISAE's position that the decision was retroactive to 1995, when the case was filed.

Indeed, in my talk with Toze and Medel and in their full-page open letter, the ISM authorities persisted in painting the teachers' actions as selfish and greedy, to a point that they would even endanger the existence of the school.

Ching poo-poohs the cries of distress of ISM, cries that the foreign business chambers have apparently swallowed hook, line and press release. "They need to prove that they are in financial distress first," Ching says of the school's protestations that it could not possibly meet its obligations to the teachers' union without putting their continued existence at risk.

In a position paper, Ching asserts that "with an average annual enrollment of 1,800 students at $10,000 per child, the School generates an average annual revenue of about $18 million. The School will not find difficulty in complying with the award which it has successfully stalled for the past five years."

Indeed, the "auction" of the school grounds and property were ordered by DOLE only after years of failed negotiations and ISM's staunch position that the Supreme Court's ruling on retroactivity was "wrong."

* * *

AT THE TIME we talked, Ching said they were in talks with the ISM board, with representatives of DOLE as mediators. Saying they are perfectly willing to negotiate the terms of payment, she stressed though that "we cannot negotiate something without honor ... The School must respect the DOLE's Writ of Execution."

While they might be willing to negotiate a schedule of payments and installments, "it has to be within a reasonable time frame," Ching adds.

You gotta be kidding!

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOME TIME LAST WEEK, AN ARTICLE appeared in the press that Manila Hotel Corp. had agreed to buy the equity of Fraport AF and two other investors in the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), the builder of the new terminal. The German firm was reported to be willing to sell for $200 million, half of what it originally wanted (anything *seguro*, just to get rid of us). And it wasn't only the Germans who want out but the Singaporeans and the Japanese who are selling for a mere $30 million. The corporation allegedly still has outstanding debts with the Government Service Insurance System from the sale of the historic hotel, but it doesn't seem to bother Winston Garcia. After all, it's GSIS money not his.

In case you're not familiar with or have forgotten our economic misadventures and mismanaged finances, let me refresh your memory. Some 13 years ago, the government put the Manila Hotel on the block. The winning bid was submitted by the Malaysian group Renong Berhad in partnership with Sheraton. Lo and behold, the Supreme Court had a bout of galloping patriotism and overturned the winning bid and gave it to Emilio Yap, owner of the Manila Bulletin, on the grounds that patrimony should remain in Filipino hands. In one fell swoop, Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and his Court dealt a fatal blow to government credibility and foreign investment. The real losers in all these shenanigans were, of course, the Filipino people but it wasn't as though any of their leaders gave a hoot. For those of us who saw the Manila Hotel when it was the jewel in the crown of hotels in the country, to see it today transformed into a sleazy *panciteria* smelling of stale smoke, redolent of vinyl place mats and varnished plywood paneling is to realize the Filipino people has been had. Because the hotel actually belonged to them and it wasn't up to the Narvasa Court to give it to Fu Manchu's descendent who had zilch experience in running hotels, much less a five-star one.

This was meant as a showcase of Filipino culture with Ming martabans in the lobby and beautiful huge tropical floral arrangements. The jars have now been replaced by schlock—gold painted containers (remember this is supposed to be good luck in the owner's culture) plus a fake, kitschy copy of an Amorsolo right beside an original. A bombastically huge plastic Kodak image of the hotel is displayed prominently for its *sando*-clad guests to stand in front to have their pictures taken. The once elegant lobby sofas have been reupholstered with a seedy, dark, cheap material that a friend described as the "Taiwan special," suggesting it was bought on sale and looks it.

The Manila Hotel was once the place to be seen in much the same way as the Four Seasons anywhere or the Ritz in Madrid or the George V in Paris. It could stand the comparison. Today it stands neck to neck with that other Yap hotel, Prince, and some others on Raon and Quezon Avenue. We were sold down the tube, guys, and as usual you don't hear anyone protesting. Are we to believe that if a property is considered "patrimonial," (a) it can be sold and (b) the interiors are a free-for-all and the owner can do whatever his tastelessness declares? Because if that's the case, Rizal Park can likewise be sold and Lito Atienza can lease the front of the boulevard fronting Malate Church to SM Shoemart to put up a mall, forevermore blocking the view of the sunset.

I once tried to explain to a government official that the people need to have something to be proud about *(puedeng ipagmalaki)*, something we could brag about for being world-class. Well, we had it and we trashed it, thanks to Narvasa. Of course, any number of politicians may have had a hand in the decision to overturn Malaysia's bid in favor of the owner of Bulletin which explains a lot of things otherwise incomprehensible.

Part of the terms was that Yap was supposed to infuse P600 million to refurbish the hotel. Where? Most of what he has built and remodeled has been depressing, ugly, brutal and spiritually degrading. There's that dreadful joke of a dreary centennial building where, for P2,000 a plate, we were served paella, salad, fish and spaghetti lumped all together in one plate. That's elegant? That's worthy of patrimony?

The depths to which we have sunk can be measured by the shabbiness and total tastelessness of the whole complex. Would you believe using varnished plywood for paneling in a hotel once advertised in Town & Country as the place to stay in Manila and where government today has the temerity to house its VIP guests? *Talagang wala na tayong hiya.*

The catastrophe that is the Champagne Room with its imitation Louie XIV (or is it XV or XVI?) décor more suited to Sioctong than to Perrier-Jouet breaks your heart. Its lifelessness is frightening. Is this what happens in a marriage of poverty and corruption?

The final, inescapable fact is that the Manila Hotel may be the biggest tombstone to Filipino heritage yet. It may supersede the empty lot where the Jai-Alai once stood and the derelict Army & Navy Club, no thanks to government officials.

But, just when you think the worst has befallen us, think again. Ladies and Gentlemen of this suffering nation, we are now being told that the only international airport terminal built in this country in the past 40 years at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars is now going to be owned by the same nightmarish, destructive group running the Manila Hotel.

There is scant refuge from the disorder in our national life. Sen. Richard Gordon, with his endorsement, now seems to be saying, "Hey, you nation of morons, this is all you deserve."

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Pessimistic but happy

YOUNG BLOOD

Skilty Labastilla

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'M NOT REALLY A BIG FAN OF PHILOSOPHICAL discussions. In college, whenever classmates or friends would start to argue over some philosophical ideas, I automatically tune off. I'd rather count the hair on the back of my hand than involve myself in debates that generally go along these lines:

Friend 1: What do you call that thing that you're sitting on?

Friend 2: Uhh, a chair?

Friend 1: Are you sure that it's a chair and not just some idea of a chair? If I tell you that you're just sitting on a word, would I be wrong? What if I tell you that without words, you're just sitting on air? It's all semantics, man.

Friend 2: The problem with postmodernists like you is that you turn everything on its head. You're, like, the philosophical version of the League of Filipino Students: you go against everything the system does. I'm sitting on a chair, period. I don't have to lose sleep over whether the chair I'm sitting on is really an elephant. I have other things to worry about, thank you.

Friend 1: You don't understand, man. I'm not even being a postmodernist here. It's closer to existentialism, actually. Man is the pilot of his life. He doesn't need a system to live his own life. He defines things around him and manipulates these things to achieve his goals.

Friend 2: Whatever, man.

Well, the last line is not what Friend 2 would normally say. That's what I would've said had I taken part in the conversation. And usually, the argument would go on and on and on.

That's why it's funny that I would want to share the philosophy I subscribe to these days. But then I want more people to feel happy amid the present difficulties. The gist of my philosophy is: Expect the worst. To illustrate the point, I will cite some examples:

- You wake up in the morning, expecting a splitting headache. When you realize you really don't have one, you become happy.
- You go out of the house, expecting a heavy downpour. But then the sun is shining brightly and it puts a smile on your face.
- You ride a jeep, anticipating heavy traffic. It turns out that the jeepney driver is a Michael Schumacher wannabe and you arrive at your destination in no time. You feel so blessed.
- You expect higher prices of commodities but still get your money's worth after shopping. You're on Cloud Nine.
- You court a girl and expect to be turned down. When she finally turns you down, it doesn't sting as much.
- You don't expect to finish your thesis on time. Months after the deadline, you still don't fret too much about it.
- You elect a president and expect him/her to be corrupt. When corruption is exposed, you don't go to Edsa anymore because you expected it to happen in the first place.

I'm sure you get my drift by now. By expecting the worst of everything, you prepare yourself to be disappointed. When something bad happens, you don't feel so awful because you anticipated it. When something good happens, it cheers you up because you expected something bad.

If more people would only think this way, then more people we meet on the street would be wearing smiles and whistling lively tunes.

Tom Cruise has attracted more people to Scientology. I hope to attract more people to Skiltology. If you think what I'm saying is nonsense, you can still tell your friends about it. Maybe they'd be more willing to try it.

But of course, I am not expecting that they would.

Skilty Labastilla, 25, is taking up MS Social Development at the Ateneo de Manila University.

If only

Renee Margarita P.

WHEN YOU'RE DOWN, THEY SAY, YOU HAVE NOWHERE to go but up. Yet I feel otherwise. Yesterday I went down and now I have sunk deeper and deeper, as if the pit I fell into wasn't deep enough to swallow me alive. I am 27, jobless and penniless, with nowhere to go.

At 20, I felt I had it all. Just days after graduating from college, I landed a job in one of the biggest multinational companies. A few months later, I owned a sleek black car with my name on the plate.

I was the daughter all the other moms envied. I was smart. I never gave my Mom any problems when I was growing up. I had a few boyfriends, but never did anything that would put our family to shame. The first boy I had a relationship with was very decent. I never broke my curfew and I never failed to give my parents a gold medal every recognition day or graduation day. Vacations were always spent with family. Even if we had maids, I always did my share in keeping our house in order.

I was the idol of my two siblings and I was a model to all my peers when almost every girl my age was getting pregnant. When I got my first pay check, I took my Mom and my siblings shopping. Months later, I was proudly giving big gifts to my parents and paying the tuition of my siblings and giving them generous allowances. In short, I was everything a good daughter could be.

So how did I end up broke and unhappy? I met a guy when I was 24 and, for the first time in my life, I stopped thinking. Then I shamelessly put aside my family and thought only of myself.

When I got big incentive bonuses for marketing programs I had put together, I would buy tickets for me and my beau and we would fly off somewhere. I thought I didn't have to feel guilty because for four years, I had given away my income to my family. It was time for me to enjoy.

There were years when I would go home only on Christmas Day with a pair of jeans or a shirt for my siblings just so I could say I had given them gifts—a far cry from all the well thought-out gifts I had given them in the past. I used to spend a lot of time choosing their gifts, and they told me they always looked forward to getting them. I loved them so much and I wanted to see their happy faces every time they opened the packages. But when my boyfriend became the center of my life, I stopped being a good daughter or sister.

Now when I look back, I realize that during the years I was sharing all I had with them, I was not doing it for love. I showered them with generosity only so that they could be proud of me. When one gives out of love, one doesn't get tired doing it at all.

Two weeks ago, because of my wrong priorities and because of my selfishness, I lost everything. My boss and I had a fight, and I quit my job. The only thing I had left in the world was my job, and I threw it away.

Now I have nothing. My bank account is empty and the telecommunications company and the credit card companies are threatening to sue me. Without my glamorous job, without my car, I am nothing. I have alienated myself from my siblings. All I feel now is regret, regret that I didn't value the people who mattered: the members of my family. I also regret that I didn't save when I was earning a lot. I lived for the moment without thinking of the future.

Do I still have hope? I don't know. I feel so tired. I wish I am just imagining things. I wish that when I wake up tomorrow, I will be 24 once more.

Renee Margarita P., 27, used to be a product planning manager of a leading pharmaceutical firm.

Could NCR residents be drinking poison?

THIS WAS THE THOUGHT THAT KEPT running in my mind during an accidental visit to the Payatas dump site, now called Quezon City Controlled Disposal Facility (QCCDF).

The facility is located just a few meters from the La Mesa Dam, from where some 13 million people from Valenzuela to Cavite City get their daily water ration. From the QCCDF gate, you need only to cross the street and there you are right at the La Mesa Dam facility.

I wonder if the water inside the dam remains free of contamination by the seepage of toxic leachate from the dump. The fumes, with all sorts of bacteria and toxic contaminants, that are carried by the wind could be making their daily landing in the dam's water supply, too.

I also wonder why the dump was reopened in spite of valid protests from residents there and elsewhere. Was the dump classified as controlled disposal facility to hide its true character? The dump does not have any of the required characteristics of a controlled dump. From all angles, it is an open dump—a mountain of a dump, that is. It also lacks an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) as required by RA 9003.

It makes me wonder further why authorities of the dump are so strict that they don't even allow any visitor to carry a camera and to take pictures of the dump and the activities going on inside. How to make your way inside is another question, though.

Back to the original question: Could the residents of the National Capital Region be drinking poison? All I am sure of is that another illegal dump in the guise of a controlled disposal facility has been allowed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to operate, even without the proper document, such as an ECC, and that the dump lies majestically beside NCR's clean (?) water supply.

—REY K. PALACIO,
executive director,
SIningYAPak (Siyap), 118 San Pascual,
Obando, 3021 Bulakan

What happens next will tell AFP's 'insulation' from politics

IN HER SPEECH DURING THE RECENT AFP change of command ceremony, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the incoming AFP chief of staff, Lt. General Generoso Tenga, to insulate the military from politics. She issued her injunction with a straight face, without a trace of embarrassment, seemingly oblivious of the fact that she is the principal culprit in perpetuating the politicization (initiated by Marcos) of the armed forces.

We are likely to see proof of this politicization in the appointment of recently retired Chief of Staff General Efren Abu to a juicy position in the bureaucracy. (More speculations about the "pabaon," which first drew public attention in the case of Maj. General Carlos F. Garcia, are inevitable in the minds of the malicious.) What will happen to the generals in the Hello Garci tapes will also be revealing of GMA's definition of an AFP insulated from politics.

In the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice and Department of Foreign Affairs, it would be interesting to watch what happens next, now that GMA's favorite phone pal, Virgilio Garcillano has been reported to be holing out in the United States. Has the Bureau of Internal Revenue taken the trouble of looking into the statement of assets and liabilities of Garcillano, and has the Philippine Anti-Graft Commission looked into his lifestyle? It is predictable that nothing will be done by these government agencies which have become so debased in the public eye.

In the House of Representatives, the minions of GMA are employing every trick to spare GMA from having to answer the charges that she said she is prepared to answer in the proper forum. Her lawyer, Romulo Makalintal, has declared on radio that his client is entitled to resort to technicalities of the law to escape punishment, implying that she may be guilty, and legal technicalities are her only way out.

Sen. Manuel Villar has discovered that the statistics on the country's balance of payments have been tampered with to reflect a brighter economic picture.

GMA paid a visit to the newly elected president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines even as the home of an opposition supporter was raided, without a search warrant, by the intelligence arm of the AFP, which is not vested with police function. To what lengths will GMA resort to lies and deception to cover her tracks, and what is the limit of an insensitive society's tolerance?

—E. P. DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Shameful act for a president

IT IS A NATIONAL SHAME THAT OUR government, at the instance of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has imported a foreigner to make us honest. It is as if we, as a people, are hopeless and we have to depend upon others to remake us into a better nation. Jose Rizal, who praised his countrymen as honest people (read his essay, the [alleged] Indolence of the Filipino), must be turning and groaning in his grave.

Tony Kwok, GMA's foreign adviser on corruption, seems to credit the British colonial rule for the supposed "honesty" of the Hong Kong Chinese. He forgets that it was the British who introduced opium to China, which led to the Opium War of 1840 between the British and Chinese governments after the latter resisted the opium trade.

In the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, the Chinese, after their defeat, were forced to cede Hong Kong to the British. Hong Kong was returned to China only in 1997. Throughout the British colonial rule, Hong Kong was known as a gangland of triads and smugglers. The United Kingdom became a dominant world power because of its loot from countries under its colonial empire "on which the sun never set."

The Filipinos need no foreigner—Chinese, British or American—to teach them honesty.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO
mfalmario@yahoo.com

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo holds a baby at the launching of a program to encourage breastfeeding. EDWIN BACASMAS

Revival of breastfeeding culture urgent

IT HAS BEEN EIGHT MONTHS SINCE I raised the alarm on the declining breastfeeding rates in the Philippines. Fortunately, my message did not go unnoticed. Both the public and private sectors have recognized breastfeeding as a strategy to ensure food security for infants up to six months. But despite the positive developments, we need to do much more to revive the breastfeeding culture in the Philippines. The most urgent actions we must take are:

1. Seriously implement the Mother- and Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI), a Unicef and WHO campaign, to support mothers in breastfeeding. To become certified as mother-baby-friendly, maternity facilities need to show that they are fully implementing the 10 steps to successful breastfeeding.

2. Sign and put into effect the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 51 or the Philippine Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. The existing implementing rules and regulations are too lax and full of loopholes, while the capacity of concerned agencies to monitor code violations and compliance has been inadequate. This has resulted in the penetration of the health system by infant formula manufacturers, down to the level of midwives in the remotest barangays. This must stop.

3. Fast-track the amendment of EO 51 to tighten its provisions by: (a) covering not only infant formula but all milk products for infants and young children up to age two or three; (b) prohibiting any sponsorship and/or partnership between the public health and nutrition sectors, on one hand, and the milk manufacturers and distributors of products covered by the Code, on the other; (c) banning the advertisement and marketing of milk products for the 0- to 2- or 3-year-old children; (d) banning all sponsorships and promotional activities of infant formula manufacturers and distributors in all health facilities; (e) banning labels with pictures of babies and text idealizing the use of milk formula; and, (f) providing stronger sanctions for violators of the Code.

4. Inform every parent and potential parent, male and female, that breastfeeding is the natural and ideal means of feeding an infant, and that all other milks are inadequate and potentially harmful substitutes to mothers' milk.

5. Support working mothers in their choice to breastfeed. Breastfeeding should not be incompatible with women's work.

I trust that we can continue to count on the support of media in these endeavors. The death of 44 children, all under five years old, in a bus accident would make headline news. That is the same number of children who die every day because they are not breastfed.

—DR. NICHOLAS ALIPUI,
Country Representative
to the Philippines, United Nations
Children's Fund (Unicef), RCBC Plaza,
Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Fernando struck a sensitive nerve

JUST WANT TO SAY I ENJOYED READING the article "Sky not falling, or why expats choose to live here" by Gilda Cordero Fernando. The article struck a very sensitive nerve, and made me reflect on future options. I am a Filipino currently living abroad and working with an international NGO.

I used to be very active in the anti-dictatorship movement in the Philippines. I got so frustrated with what was going on in the country that leaving (and leading a comfortable, less poverty-stricken life in the process) seemed to be the right thing to do. But an important part of me has always been in the Philippines. And the article made me reflect that, maybe, I've taken for granted and have lost sight of the good things that we posses, including our positive values of resilience, our deeply ingrained concern for our family, etc.

The article has strengthened my resolve to go back there (maybe not right away but eventually), and as before, become part of the movement for a better and more humane Philippines.

—ARLENE MAHINAY,
arlene_mahinay@yahoo.co.uk

English could be key to one's future

THE DISCOVERY OF GRAMMATICAL errors in proposed textbooks is not something new in the Philippine educational system. I found it really disappointing to think I have been advising my younger relatives to study hard and to keep reading and to strive to improve their English communication skills, only to learn that our books are substandard.

As an overseas Filipino worker in the Middle East, I saw the need to equip myself with "acceptable" communication skills. Sadly, I only started to learn and explore the English language when I set foot on Saudi Arabia more than three years ago.

I guess the saying "Better late than never" applies to me. English, as a subject, never stirred my interest back in my schooldays. Honestly, I hated it. I "was" nationalistic and believed that I didn't need to be good in any language other than my own. I was extremely confident that I wouldn't need to work in a foreign land. But reality laid out for me a different story, and I have realized God has a different plan for me. Now that I am pitted against other expatriate workers here, I feel insecure and intimidated. I feel that I need "more" to measure up. I feel I am not articulate enough.

Apparently, our economy continues to deteriorate and our country can't help it but to resort to and promote "manpower export." I still have high hopes that we can regain lost ground. When? Only the Almighty knows. But for now, I want my younger relatives and the younger generation to be prepared for whatever is in store for them in the future (in the international job market). I hope I can contribute by sincerely urging the Department of Education to stress the importance of English in school curriculums. Only truly qualified teachers should teach English. Professors should not "pass" their students out of mercy, as this will backfire on them. Television stations should have more programs that promote the value of education. And lastly, the young generation should be ambitious and take their studies seriously.

For those proposing to utilize "Filipino" as the medium of instruction in schools, we have to wake-up and face reality. The international job market is very competitive and seeks workers who can express themselves articulately.

—ABDULRAHMAN ANTONIO,
amefondo@yahoo.com

Choose one: (1) President Arroyo should be impeached; (2) Impeachment process will not succeed, street protests should oust President Arroyo; or, (3) President Arroyo is doing fine and should complete her term.

Pres. AROYO SHLD be IMPEACHED 2 reveal d TRUTH
—Frankie LORDAN, 38, *iriga city*

no. 3 (complete her term): the economy needs her smarts. business first, stupid.
—mary hope Anderson, 41, *ozamiz*

D Pres. SHLD BE IMPEACHD. It's d LEGAL & CNSTITUTIONL way of filing a case against d PRES. Though the process is long..
—JAMES PHILIP NARISMA, 39, *iloilo*

3 (complete her term), i believe d president is doing her job, ders juz 2 much dirty politics and politicians dat are greedy 4 power
—luke eduard ensong, *bayawan city*

GMA shd b IMPEACHD cz she lacks of d simpl nOLdge of hr race, hr pepl, N her cOunty n her LUV OF D TRUTH n ideas dat R people hav learnd 2 cheriSH
—c-t, 22, *cot*

no. 1, PGMA should be impeached simply becoz NO ONE, not even a PRESIDENT of d REPUBLIC OF d PHILIPPINES is above the LAW.
—juancho jose, 37, *cainta*

3 (complete her term), its d most possible thing to happen and we can also get on with our lives..
—evangeline aquino, 42, *calauag*

pgma shld b impeachd coz most of d filipino hav lost trust & confidence 2 her. Her "I'm sori" proves her guilt.
—Josephine L. Cruz, 30, *Cavite*

pgma is doin fine & shud complete her term, they are ol cheating in d election but nalmang lng cla ni pgma...dapat silang lahat..
—neil ryan, 23, *davao*

Arroyo should be impeached bec. she had already lost the trust & confidence of the majority of Filipinos..
—Edgardo S. Maligat, 45, *Manila*

Pres. Arroyo SHLD B IMPEACHED. She wants 2 B impeached, she SHOULD be.

Let d people decide!

—LEONARDO OSUNA, 45, *nagcarlan, laguna*

GMA SHOULD BE IMPEACHED! kind of proving if she is guilty or not of cheating, stealing and lying! It's a constitutional process.
—may g. malapitan, *quezon city*

no. 3, Pres.Arroyo wil finish her term as far as i know, its is hawak yan ng Americano n besides, Americans have vested interests here in the Philippines.. business and politics as usual...
—Felix Mojica, 51, *Sipalay CT*

pres.Arroyo shud b impeached. this way, we will know d truth if she cheated or not.
—b. penrad, 24, *baguio*

Street protest to oust PGMA will not help the nation. Rallyists supported by d opposition do not represent the sentiment of true Filipinos...
—Jose T Ferrer, 55, *Samp. Mla.*

she is actually better than her self righteous opponents..
—m.vilches, 48, *cebu city*

pres. arroyo shud b impeached bcoz she betrayed publc trust. if she wants reform, it shud begin wid d highest position, down..
—joseph christian c. tapire, 18, *lipa city*

In what specific ways can you help conserve energy?

Utilize d USE of SOLAR & WIND ENERGY. MINIMIZE d USE of WHEELS, instead, MAXIMIZE d USE of ur FEET, & remember "JESUS SAVES"
—ARIEL ALIGAEN, 31, *trece martirez*

simple, we all need to be resourceful. walk 2 school with the kids..
—akisa guro, 20, *iligan city*

U can help conserve energy while at home, wen it is not necessary 2 use power, do it in a practical way..
—agerico banding, 26, *urdaneta city*

Work shud start as erli as 6 a.m. so we can sign off erli, also 2 maximize solar power!
—Rosemarie P. Lindawan, 35, *Ifugao*

Unless its not an important trip, start practicing car pool when going and back from work.
—Teddy Bolivar, *Pasig City*

...oil rationing wud put a limit 2 d excessive use of oil as pipol wud use wat is onli given dem.
—Rosemarie P. Lindawan, 35, *Ifugao*

Turn of my celfon wen chargin it, and use d library instead of d internet for my research work.
—cj barrera, 18, *Las Piñas*

Instead of letting kids watch cartoons on TV for hours with the fan on, why not grab some paper, pencil or crayons and engage them on learning things, do it outside the house...
—Allan Jun Pinto, 26, *subic, zambales*

Learn to conserve mother earth's resources which are not limitless, which should be sustained, preserved, conserved. Walk, bike and limit the use of motorized, gasoline-consuming and air-pollution-causing vehicles. Join car pool, use MRT/LRT. Maximize use of available natural sunlight, use more energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs, turn-off electrical appliances and lights when not in use. Collect and re-use rain water. reduce waste, re-use and re-cycle resources.. Live a simple life.
—stella prudente, *pasig city*

back 2 basics. d use of lampara instead of philipps florescent, banga instead of GE ref, deepwell instead of shower, pipol power instead of amendment...
—tes obana, 24, *polangui*

increase import tax + LTO registration fees of luxury cars, kikita na government, conserve gas pa!
—Coy Padilla, 33, *Q.C.*

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A17

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Bitter Cavite rivals finally meet

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—THE MUCH-AWAITED meeting between erstwhile political allies Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi and Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla finally happened yesterday morning, in full view of hundreds of provincial capitol employees during the flag-raising ceremony.

Maliksi had just ended his message in the traditional assembly and was about to leave the rostrum at the capitol grounds when Remulla emerged from the capitol building.

Tension momentarily gripped the mostly pro-Maliksi crowd when Remulla walked toward the governor amid applause from some employees.

Remulla, who has filed a graft case before the Ombudsman against Maliksi which led to the governor's subsequent suspension, later said he was surprised by the warm reception he got from the employees, some of whom hugged and kissed him.

Recognition

The governor then grabbed the microphone from the emcee to personally acknowledge the presence of his ally-turned-staunch political opponent.

"Let us recognize the presence of our vice governor," the governor told the crowd, drawing louder cheers and applause.

Remulla then handed Maliksi a brown envelope containing his five-page, 11-point "appeal for good governance" agenda.

He earlier told the INQUIRER that he would present a 12-point agenda. But he said he decided to exclude the item regarding the financial status of the capitol, pending the report of the Commission on Audit.

The vice governor also offered his hand to Maliksi who politely shook his hands.

Both officials were in white polo shirt and blank-faced.

It was their first meeting in over a month and since the Ombudsman ordered the governor's suspension last Aug. 15, which triggered the nine-day standoff at the capitol.

But even before Remulla left the ceremony, Maliksi told him and the employees that all his (Remulla's) proposals were being implemented by the provincial government.

The two officials then gamely faced journalists who covered the event.

Asked what he told the governor, Remulla said: "I just told him that 'here is the copy of my suggestions and I hope you read what's inside it.'"

Redundant

Maliksi, however, quickly retorted that what the vice governor included in his proposals were already being undertaken by his administration.

"That's the problem with him. *Banat siya nang banat. Hindi niya alam ang nangyayari sa kapitolyo.* What he wants me to do are already being done," Maliksi said.

When asked what he felt about Remulla's presence at the flag-raising ceremony, he said: "It's a good sign (for our province)."

REMULLA and Maliksi shake hands in a meeting that the governor said was a good sign for the province.

MARLON RAMOS/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Maliksi later admitted though that while he welcomed the vice governor, he was not at all impressed by Remulla's apparent show of humility in meeting him in front of the employees.

"*Pakitang tao lang naman 'yun.* (Remulla) has yet to show me his sincerity," the gray-haired governor told the INQUIRER.

He said that if Remulla was really serious in working for a united provincial government, "he should first cooperate with what we are doing."

He also advised the vice governor to meet him before he seeks audience with the media.

"Just like what he did before, (Remulla) informed the (INQUIRER) about his proposals before me. If he's really serious, then he should have met with me first," Maliksi said.

"What the people want to see is for elected officials like us to work together. So he should work with me and with other officials of Cavite. That will be the true measure of his sincerity," he added.

Despite their meeting, Maliksi said he still didn't see any prospect of reconciliation between them and the end of their political squabble is yet to happen in the near future.

"What he says in the media must be transformed into good deeds first," he said.

Remulla said he was disappointed by the governor's reactions.

"I am really saddened. Why should he question my motives and not my actions? My action is far more important," he said.

He said that in spite of Maliksi's negative reactions, he would still pursue his plans to weed out the provincial capitol of alleged corruption.

He said he was also willing to meet with the governor closed doors whenever Maliksi calls him. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bishop's brod tagged rebel freed by judge

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE YOUNGER brother of Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla was released yesterday more than a month after he was arrested for allegedly taking part in an attack of New People's Army (NPA) rebels on a field office of a construction firm last year.

Romeo Capalla, 56, walked out of the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center around 2 p.m. yesterday after Judge Teodulo Collada of the Regional Trial Court Branch 67 in Guimbal town, Iloilo ordered his release for lack of evidence.

In his five-page order dated Sept. 5, Collada said the prosecution failed to establish that Capalla was among those who burned pieces of equipment of E.C. de Luna Construction Corp. in Barangay Patricion in Guimbal town, 29 km south of here, in May last year.

The prosecution presented SPO1 Rafael Teñales and Eva Maureen Orozco, an employee of the construction firm, as witnesses but both said they did not see or recognize the perpetrators of the attack.

"The charges against (Capalla) are based (on) hearsay information and all the prosecution witnesses have categorically stated that they were unable to identify any of the perpetrators," Collada said in his order.

What is the Truth?

The opposition keeps saying that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo cheated in order to win in the May 2004 election.

What are the facts?

- Various poll surveys, including those by Social Weather Stations, predicted GMA's victory during the last few weeks of the campaign.
- The exit polls taken by the SWS supported this forecast – GMA won.
- NAMFREL's quick count also showed GMA won. In her column last Saturday, the *Inquirer* columnist Solita Collas-Monsod quoted NAMFREL Secretary General Guillermo Luz as saying after the election last year. "The results of the elections are credible and reflect the vote of the people. We didn't see enough electoral anomalies at the national level to have a material effect on the national results."
- Various foreign observers who monitored last year's election also said it was credible despite a few inefficiencies by the election personnel.
- The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines said, "There were some instances of cheating and violations of election laws by political parties in there areas, but these did not affect voting in general." The CBCP also said, "It is the view of the Bishops that the results of the [2004] elections reflected the will of the Filipino people."

What is the truth? President Arroyo won the 2004 election, but the opposition refuses to accept the truth because it's not after the truth. It has another agenda.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cops say radio anchor's murder not job-related

ANGELES CITY—THE MURDER of a radio anchorperson here on Friday last week was not related to her job as a journalist, the police said on Monday.

But the Pampanga Press Club, through its president Ashley Jay Manabat, urged a closer look into the killing of Lady Elaine Malit Valencia, 40, saying the anchorperson of dwGV-AM's "Buhay Kalusugan" might have also been killed because of her advocacy against the proliferation of illegal drugs in the city.

Manabat also said another possible motive for the attack was her refusal to drop a case against an illegal recruiter whose victim came to her for help.

Supt. Ronald de Jesus, operations chief of the Angeles City police, said the motive was robbery, citing results of their investigation.

"It's not media-related," said De Jesus.

Wilfredo Gundran, the main suspect, was arrested and charged with robbery with homicide and with violation of the illegal drugs law (Republic Act 9165).

Police reports said Gundran was high on drugs when he killed Valencia, his aunt, in the latter's house on Carlota de Leon Street in Barangay Sta. Teresita here.

Her neighbors said Valencia, single and who lived alone, was stabbed eight times in the head and neck with an ice pick. Neighbors found her body in the house's toilet at 7:30 a.m.

Two other suspects, identified as Raymond Guevarra and Hazel Bornales, were also arrested and charged with robbery.

Police said the three suspects had a pot session before they allegedly carried out the crime.

Manabat said information gathered by the PPC showed that a few days before she was killed, Valencia had asked Gundran to quit his supposed addiction to illegal drugs. A heated argument between the two ensued, reports said.

More known as "Lady Elaine" to her listeners, Valencia dished out health tips during her hour-long show, a block time program on the 20-year-old radio station in the boundary of Porac town and Angeles City.

But if Valencia's killing would turn out to be related to her work as a journalist, it would be the second attack on broadcasters connected with dwGV.

The first was on June 29, 2000 when suspected communist rebels attacked anchorpersons Caesar Lacson, Fyodor Fabian and former Porac Mayor Roy David.

The three had just wrapped up the day's episode of their show Pulitika Atbp. and drove their cars out of the radio station's compound when the rebels shot them.

Three of David's six companions died. David survived the attack but died more than a year later from complications from injuries.

Lacson and Fabian survived the attack. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BICYCLE LANE

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Renting bicycles can become a good source of income for entrepreneurs in Baguio City. Some say they could earn as much as P1,000 a day renting bicycles.

Cebu militants gather signatures for impeachment

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—MILITANT GROUPS here yesterday launched a signature campaign urging members of the House of Representatives to transmit the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Senate.

Arman Perez, Bayan Muna-Central Visayas regional coordinator, said the signature drive was meant to ask the congressmen not to hide the truth by dismissing the impeachment complaint.

The signature drive was launched at about 4 p.m. yesterday at the corner of Colon Street and Osmeña Boulevard to coincide with the resumption of the House plenary session where the report of the House committee on justice was expected to be deliberated.

"It's not too late. We wanted to show to the congressmen that many people are eager to know the truth," Perez said.

He said they intended to get as many signatures as they could and would forward it immediately to the House of Representatives.

Aside from Bayan, among those who participated in the launching were members of Bayan-affiliated student organizations and the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR).

While some Bayan members were collecting signatures from people on Colon Street, more than 100 members of the militant groups marched to Fuente Osmeña Rotunda where a prayer rally was later held.

Perez said Bayan Muna would also hold another rally today in response to the call of former president Corazon Aquino to go the streets to push for the transmittal of the impeachment complaint.

He added they would also join the nationwide rally on Wednesday initiated by Bayan Muna in time for the expected departure of Ms Arroyo to the United States where she would preside over the United Nations Security Council meeting from Sept. 14 to 16.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal on Sunday expressed hope that the impeachment complaints filed against Ms Arroyo would prosper.

Ranking MNLF leader shot dead in Sultan Kudarat

TACURONG CITY—A RANKING Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader was shot dead inside a restaurant in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Saturday noon.

Senior Supt. Anaris Adab, Sultan Kudarat police director, said Larry Sinagandal, chair of the MNLF's Kutawato State Revolutionary Committee (KSRC) for Central Mindanao, died from a gunshot wound in the chest. His companion, Sani Bansil, was wounded and is now in critical condition.

Adab said the victims were having a luncheon meeting with three unidentified men inside Crystal Restaurant when fired at close range by a gunman.

Witnesses said they saw a man leave an eatery upon the arrival of the victims. A few minutes later, he came back carrying a brown envelope, proceeded toward the victims' table and started shooting.

Romeo Sema, MNLF secretariat head, said prior to the attack, the victims had a meeting in a Muslim village in Isulan. They later moved to Crystal Restaurant for another meeting.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimim Sema, who used to chair KSRC during the front's rebellion years, described the killing as bold and daring as it happened in broad daylight and in the presence of so many people.

The MNLF insurgency had been laid to rest when it signed an Organization of the Islamic Conference-brokered peace agreement with the government on Sept. 2, 1996.

The pact purportedly led to the dismemberment of the front which was originally under the leadership of Nur Misuari. It showed the emergence of the MNLF-Misuari wing and the MNLF Executive Committee of 15, of which Muslimin Sema is the secretary general.

Sema has commissioned a group of MNLF members in Sultan Kudarat to investigate the killing of Sinagandal and determine the motive behind it. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 of six escapees from Laguna provincial jail shot dead

CALAMBA CITY—TWO OF the six inmates who escaped from the Laguna provincial jail over the weekend were killed while three others were recaptured after a 20-minute gunfight with policemen in a hilly village in Pagsanjan, Laguna shortly before dawn yesterday.

Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Laguna police director, identified the slain escapees as Dodong Lopez and Maphol Magbanua. Both were facing murder charges.

Arrested were Ronald Rivas, Victor Celestial and Louie Famador who suffered a gunshot wound in the foot and was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Of the six, only Orlando Yulas remains at large.

Terte said they were alerted by residents of Barangay Magdapyo, Pagsanjan town about the presence of several unidentified armed men in their area.

He said he then immediately sent a team of police operatives to verify the report.

The responding policemen, Terte said, were met by gunshots from the inmates as soon as they arrived at the area at around 3:30 a.m., triggering the gunfight. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Arsenic level in Negros town water reported safe

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE WATER district in Sibulan, Negros Oriental has assured its customers that their water is now safe for drinking, following laboratory tests which showed that the arsenic content of the town's water supply was within the safety standard prescribed by the World Health Organization.

Officials of the Sibulan Water District (Siwad), in a press conference here on Friday, gave copies of the report of the analysis conducted by the Chempro Analytical Services Laboratories Inc., the Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Negros Oriental Provincial Laboratory.

The reports said the arsenic content is now at a low of from .005 micrograms per liter to .01 micrograms per liter. The World Health Organization limit is .01 micrograms per liter.

The findings released on the third week of August debunked the findings of the University of the Philippines Natural Sciences Research Institute in February, which showed arsenic levels at .22 mcg/ liter.

Arsenic is a natural compound which, when continually ingested at levels higher than .05 mcg/liter, could cause cancer of the lungs, skin and liver, among others.

Concern over the safety of the Siwad water supply forced the residents of Barangay Agan-an last February to ask the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) to stop the Siwad from replacing the pipes of the Dumaguete City Water District in their barangay. Sibulan is about 6 km from Dumaguete.

Reluctance of water consumers to use Siwad water has been blamed for the water company's financial shortfall.

Town seeks exemption from landfill rule

TUBA, BENGUET—TWO years ago, this town was cited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as one of the country's best in waste management for being way ahead in the construction of facilities for solid waste materials recovery.

But today, local officials admitted that they have yet to lay the first stone for the foundation of a sanitary landfill which is mandated by law to be completed by February next year.

They said they could not yet build the landfill because the town's present waste disposal system had been proven efficient and the estimated cost of P35 million to put up the facility would take much of the town's annual budget.

Mayor Jose Baluda and the town council recently passed a resolution asking the National Solid Waste Management Council (NSWC) to exempt the town from building a sanitary landfill as required by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act 9003).

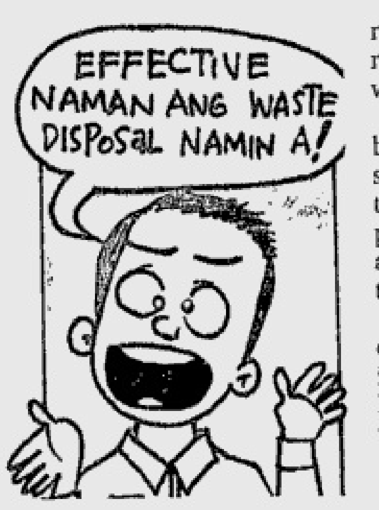
The officials said if possible, the town should be allowed instead to pursue the completion of its controlled dumpsite facility since the town just could not meet the financial and site requirements for a sanitary landfill.

Under RA 9003, local governments are directed to formulate their respective waste management programs.

The programs must include waste segregation, materials recovery facility (MRF), open dumpsite conversion to controlled dumpsites, and the construction of sanitary landfills as final waste disposal system.

Baluda said the town has yet to make use of the period provided by law to complete a controlled dump and the rush to erect a sanitary landfill may become an exercise in futility.

Councilor Blas Dalus, chair of the council's committee on environment, said the town generates a manageable 3,000 kg of solid wastes a month, which exclude reusable and recyclable materials.


EFFECTIVE NAMAN ANG WASTE DISPOSAL NAMIN A!

"We request that we be allowed first to pass through the phase of using a controlled dumpsite before building a costly sanitary landfill," he said.

In their resolution, the officials said the volume of collected wastes would make the construction of a sanitary landfill not feasible while the maintenance of a controlled dumpsite would be better.

But the Benguet provincial board, whose assistance was sought to endorse the resolution to the NSWC, balked at the proposal, saying the law mandates all towns to come up with a sanitary landfill.

The board said the town's request for exemption would be inconsistent with the intent of RA 9003 and the province's environmental code.

Board Member Aloysius Kato, chair of the board's committee on environment, found it ironic for the town to seek an exemption despite having been cited by the DENR as a model town in waste materials recovery.

Kato said in 2003, then Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun cited the town as the 18th local government model in waste management for successfully building MRFs in its villages. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Impeachment steals time away from population bill

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—WITH THE POLITICAL survival of President Macapagal-Arroyo at stake, controversial bills like the one on reproductive health and population management have been placed on the back burner.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, said deliberations on House Bill 3773 or Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005, have been delayed due to the impeachment proceedings in Congress.

Acosta, one of the bill's proponents, said there might be concern in the House leadership that pushing for the bill "might aggravate the Church's stand on the [political] crisis."

Speaker Jose de Venecia is a close ally of the President who is facing an impeachment complaint.

The influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has not supported calls for the President to resign but it said the President should not simply dismiss such calls.

The bishops also said in their July 10 statement that the filing of an impeachment case against the chief executive "is not against the Gospel."

The bishops have also been vocal against HB 3773 because it is allegedly "anti-family and anti-life" for promoting contraception and abortion, an allegation strongly denied by the bill's proponents and reproductive health advocates.

"We assume that the leadership may consider this a main factor to delay the bill ... or not [subject it to] urgent action," Acosta told the INQUIRER during a conference of the Visayas Reproductive Health Initiative held in Cebu City.

Acosta said "there were indications that you don't incur or flirt around with the possibility of incurring the wrath of the ... Catholic Church over a social policy like reproductive health and population ..."

He said this was shown in the delay in the scheduling of the sponsorship speech after the bill was passed in the committee level.

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Resolution No. 04-2005

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND LAUDING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE ON ITS DECISION TO DISMISS THE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT AGAINST PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO FOR LACK OF SUSTANCE IN A JUST, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT MANNER

Whereas, the committe endeavored to conduct the hearing with utmost just, fairness, and transparency;

Whereas, this will allow us as a nation to focus on efforts to address the important concerns on economy, poverty, education, housing, and employment;

Whereas, this instance ushers in an opportunity for us to unite as a nation to combat the various problems besetting our people;

NOW THEREFORE, premises considered and upon motion by THE HONORABLE ADORLITO GINETE, Mayor, Sta. Teresita, Batangas, duly seconded by all Luzon Island Mayors present;

RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the delegates of the Luzon Island Conference approve the RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND LAUDING THE HOUSE COMMITTE ON JUSTICE ON ITS DECISION TO DISMISS THE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT AGAINST PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO FOR LUCK OF SUBSTANCE IN A JUST, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT MANNER;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all concerned for their information.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Done this 1st day of September 2005 at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

Sgd. **Mayor GERARDO V. CALDERON**
Secretary General

Approved by:

Sgd. **Mayor RAMON N. GUICO, JR.**
National President

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cory, Susan shift battle to the streets

From page A1

Pambansa in Quezon City to finally bring to the streets their call for Ms Arroyo to step down.

"I will march tomorrow … if you believe in a cause, then you give it your all," Aquino said at a press conference called by Bukluran at La Salle Green Hills in San Juan.

"It will be the first time since the Estrada administration that Aquino, religious leaders, opposition and militant groups will be marching together for a common cause.

Aquino said proimpeachment members of the House needed the support and encouragement of every citizen. "Perhaps it is good for us to show our support for the congressmen by being out there and marching."

Last chance

Villanueva, leader of the Bangon Pilipinas Movement and a loser in the 2004 presidential election, said the impeachment process was the country's last chance to prove that a peaceful, constitutional process could work.

"If this fails, I don't think we can stop the people from going to the streets in exercise of their sovereign rights," the preacher said.

Bukluran is a coalition of more than 30 organizations and clusters of organizations that has been calling for Ms Arroyo's ouster through resignation or impeachment since June on the grounds that she had cheated in the 2004 presidential election.

Bukluran includes Action for Economic Reforms, Akbayan, Ateneo Concerned Faculty and Youth, Bangon Pilipinas, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Be Not Afraid, Black and White Movement, Citizens for Truth (Transparency, Resignation, Unity, Trust, Hope and Ouster), Citizens for Truth, Resignation, Impeachment or Ouster (C4T), Coalition for National Solidarity, and Counsels for the Defense of Civil Liberties (Codal).

De La Salle, FPJ Movement, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Interfaith Movement for Truth, Justice and Genuine Change, Kilusan ng Makabansang Ekonomiya, Laban ng Masa, People's Assembly for Genuine Alternatives to Social Apathy, Moro National Liberation Front, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, Reporma, Union of Muslims for Morality and Truth, United Opposition, Unity for Truth and Justice, UP Aware, UP Diliman Student Council, White Ribbon Movement, Women March and Youth Dare.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson is also joining the march.

The ouster calls followed the disclosure of Ms Arroyo's wiretapped telephone conversations in which she allegedly directed former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the polls. Ms Arroyo admitted to having made the telephone call, but she has denied any wrongdoing.

At least three impeachment complaints were filed, and subsequently thrown out by the House justice committee.

Critical days

An endorsement by 79 legislators, or a third of the 236-member House, would send the complaint to the Senate for trial, but the proimpeachment bloc has yet to muster the required number.

"These are critical days. This is a historic week. These times call for concerted action, and show of strength," said Br. Armin Luistro, spokesperson of Bukluran and president of De la Salle University.

Bukluran only wants the truth about the allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the polls to come out, "but her response has been to suppress evidence, hide her accomplices, engage in grand cover-up, sow fear, foment distrust and use every instrument at her disposal to encourage division among our people," Luistro said.

"We say with one voice: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must go," he said.

In an unprecedented move on Friday, Luistro managed to invite Aquino, Roces and leaders of other organizations in the oust-Arroyo movement to an interfaith rally at La Salle Green Hills in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Expected voting

Amid reports that pro-Arroyo members of the House planned to hold the final vote on the impeachment case last night and preempt the march, Bukluran is pushing through with the mass action.

"We are pushing through with the march come what may. To where, we will decide based on developments in Congress," Luistro told the INQUIRER last night.

"Win or lose, we will march tomorrow," Ronald Llamas, president of Akbayan, also said.

A vice chair of the House committee on justice yesterday said the President would not stand a chance if the impeachment complaint found its way to the Senate for trial.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan said Ms Arroyo would likely get convicted because Senate President Franklin Drilon and senators close to him had already prejudged Ms Arroyo with the call for her to resign.

"Impeachment is a political exercise and (those supporting the President's impeachment) have the numbers in the Senate inasmuch the same way that those against it have the numbers in the House," Libanan said in a telephone interview.

Bulduran member Enteng Romano said the protesters would first gather in front of St. Peter's Church and hold an interfaith prayer meeting before marching on the Batasang Pambansa.

Beyond delineation

Romano is a founding member of a new anti-Arroyo coalition called the Black and White Movement, launched two weeks ago. The new group seeks to unite the middle forces—those who want Ms Arroyo out but have been refusing to join mass actions for fear they would be associated with supporters of Estrada, Romano had said.

"We are beyond [the delineation]. All groups against Ms Arroyo should now unite," he said.

He said the unity came "spontaneously" after the House committee on justice, packed with allies of the President, chose a weak impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo and later dismissed it.

"We have different views on certain issues. But we all agree that Ms Arroyo cheated during the last elections," Romano said.

Unifying factor

Fr. Jose Dizon said Ms Arroyo had become both a source of crisis and a unifying factor for Filipinos.

"[Today], Filipinos will show their unshakable unity against the President. The numbers in the rally may not yet result in people power, but the fact that these groups are coming together is already a positive sign that we will resolve this crisis," he said.

Carol Araullo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said cause-oriented groups would deliver significant numbers for the rally.

"There has also been a significant change in the attitude of the middle forces as a result of the impeachment hearings. More and more are becoming open to the idea of street actions and other forms of protest to resolve the political crisis," she said.

In a virtual dry run for today's big march, antiriot police came in full force yesterday to bar militants from getting within 50 meters of the Batasan complex.

At noon, 50 to 70 members of Akbayan on board rented jeepneys tried to go to the complex but were stopped by police near the Sandiganbayan building—hundreds of meters away from the complex.

Taking another tack, the group regrouped at St. Peter's and from there marched on foot to Commonwealth and Batasan Road, intending to reach the complex where the House was deciding whether to junk or revive the impeachment complaints.

They managed to get several meters farther than their first try before police blocked them again.

Later in the afternoon, a smaller group composed of members of the Partido ng Manggagawa tried to breach the tight police lines, but they were also blocked by policemen with shields and batons.

More than 700 civil disturbance management troops were deployed to secure the area, including reinforcements from nearby districts.

Since the violent dispersal last week in front of the Batasan gates, where dozens of persons were hurt, the National Capital Region Police Office has barred militants from occupying the area.

NCRPO Director Vidal Querol had issued a directive forbidding protesters from getting within 50 meters of the area.

He said he had also asked the rally leaders—both for and against impeachment—to obtain permits from the local government. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Luige del Puerto and TJ Brugonio*

AKBAYAN
Congress cover-up of GLORIA
Kongreso nabubulok na sa katatakip kay Gloria!
AKBAYAN

MEMBERS of the party-list group Akbayan wear surgical masks in a "die-in" outside the Batasan building to highlight the "rotting" credibility of the legislature in handling the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. JOAN BONDOC

Team-up too little …

From page A1

wages and implementation of land reform.

They also urged Aquino to help bring to justice those responsible for the violent dispersal of strikers in the hacienda on Nov. 16 last year that left seven persons dead.

No one in the Aquino household came out to meet with the workers.

Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, Gabriel Claudio, expressed doubt Aquino and Roces together would be able to bind the diverse segments of the opposition long enough to oust the President.

Groups too disparate

"The political perspectives, background and motives of the sectors and social classes the two ladies represent are too disparate to reconcile. Any unity they will have will likely be superficial and transient," Claudio said in reply to the INQUIRER's question.

"The team-up may romanticize the cause of the opposition to a certain extent, but it is doubtful if it can influence the direction and outcome of the political events or goad a significant segment of the population against the government," he said.

"The analogy and parallel to previous Edsas do not exist because the the situation is different now," he said.

"The cause for removing the President is not righteous and can only bring chaos and destruction to our country."

German said the administration should focus on the weakness of the opposition—their disparate views and agenda—while underscoring the political chaos and resultant economic downfall if they succeed in their objective.

Ramos as foil

If the opposition was counting on Aquino's drawing power in the military as a former commander in chief, German said the Arroyo administration was likely to use former President Fidel V. Ramos as its foil.

"Ramos is not only an ex-commander in chief but an ex-general. He has his own following," said German, a former media strategist for ousted President Joseph Estrada and an Aquino ally in the campaign against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that as the country neared "the moment of truth," its leaders were expected to "act with conscience, reason and duty."

He said that to "threaten our people with doomsday scenarios is an insult to our people and their political maturity."

Bunye said Ms Arroyo was "very confident about the outcome of the impeachment proceedings because, in the first place, she has not done anything contrary to the law."

Commenting on the joining of forces between Roces and Aquino, Bunye said the Palace recognized the right of these groups to come together as this was part of freedom of expression, "and for as long as this is done in a peaceful manner."

Audit requested

Also yesterday, Gonzalez said he would ask the Commission on Audit to investigate reports that former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and former presidential adviser Teresita Quintos-Deles had not accounted for millions of pesos they and their foundations had received from government and foreign donors.

"These are funds which were supposed to go to NGOs. To what NGO did they go, for example?" Gonzalez said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Soliman and Deles were among 10 Cabinet secretaries and government officials who resigned en masse on July 8 in a bid to press Ms Arroyo to quit amid allegations of election fraud and illegal gambling payoffs.

An INQUIRER columnist reported on Monday that the foundation in which Deles served as executive director had received hundreds of thousands from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

The Deles NGO reportedly got P3.29 million from local and foreign donors in 2004.

Soliman's Community Organizers Multidiversity was said to have received "donations and grants" from the Presidential Management Staff, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Department of Health and the Local Government Support Group.

The foundation, which received P13.35 million in 2003 and P26.9 million in 2000, has yet to fully account for the funds.

Gonzalez said he was pressed into asking the COA to look into the matter, saying it "may have overlooked" the issue.

"But if there will be no COA report on that, Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr. will ask for a congressional investigation," he said, referring to his son who is a representative from Iloilo. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Christine O. Avendaño and DJ Yap*

Opposition says Pagcor funds tied to plot …

From page A1

look for beneficiaries?"

King also said there was no Jojo de Leon employed at Pagcor.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the controversy about bishops receiving Pagcor money was started by former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman. Last week, Soliman quoted Ms Arroyo as saying she did not want to sack Genuino because he took care of the media and bishops.

"The Palace has nothing to do with the story," Bunye said.

Regalario said he and three other KME members met with De Leon two months ago at the Great Eastern Hotel in Manila. He described De Leon as very subtle and mild-mannered.

He said De Leon told him Pagcor wanted to help the KME. "But after a long story, he said maybe we could tone down our criticism of the President … So if you sum it up together, it all goes to taking hold of you."

Not accidental

Regalario said he did not think the release of the names of the bishops was "accidental."

He said the administration probably knew that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines might issue a statement on the killing of the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"This is one way of blackmail. They're trying to jump the gun on the bishops," Regalario said.

Asked for comment, King replied: "That's ridiculous. You were the ones who dug up that information. We didn't release that to the media."

A Pagcor source earlier told the INQUIRER that CBCP president Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of Pampanga, Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra and Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros were recipients of donations from Genuino's intelligence fund.

Regalario said that if the donations from Pagcor had been made in good faith, the list would not have been released. "It's puzzling why the names had to be released, and piecemeal at that," he said.

Church cast in bad light

"It is obvious that the motive is to put the bishops and the Church as a whole in a bad light," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, president of the United Opposition.

He said the Palace had apparently received information that several bishops were urging the CBCP to issue a stronger statement against the President.

"Ms Arroyo and her operators are in panic. The bishops are individually issuing statements condemning the killing of the impeachment complaint at the committee level. We see members of the Church in protest assemblies," Binay said.

"The Palace knows that the bishops are frustrated," he added.

He said leaking the names of the bishops who had received Pagcor donations was a "preemptive strike." He said that when persons or groups become potential enemies, Malacañang "immediately discredits" them.

"It's how Malacañang plays the game," he said.

In July, the CBCP shied away from mounting calls demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation over claims she rigged last year's election and her family received illegal gambling payoffs. However, it said the President should not dismiss the calls outright.

Capalla had said there was nothing wrong with bishops receiving funds from Pagcor if the money would help the poor.

But Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, while acknowledging that bishops just wanted to help the poor, said that during these times, it would not be right to receive money from politicians that you are fighting.

Bishops can't be bought

He said the reports about the receipt of Pagcor funds tainted the image of the Church.

"The image is as if the bishops could be bought, but that is not true," he said. "This is saddening, and I ask for pardon from the people."

In a pastoral statement issued in January 2004, the CBCP said it did not encourage helping the poor using gambling money. It said this could easily be construed as approving and promoting a culture of gambling and could scandalize the faithful.

The INQUIRER has received e-mail and text messages adversely reacting to the bishop's declaration that there was nothing irregular about using gambling money to fund projects for the impoverished.

"This is the same as accepting help from the devil to give to the poor," said one sender. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

167 Int'l School teachers to get $3.8M

From page A1

union, the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE).

"Both sides have so much concern for the ISM as an institution. They know that a negotiated agreement was the best option as against the adversarial execution proceedings," NCMB Executive Director Hans Leo Cacdac told reporters in a briefing.

ISM, originally founded as the American School Inc. in 1920, is the oldest international school in the country. It currently has some 1,700 students of about 50 different nationalities.

After the school was unable to pay the teachers, the DOLE issued a writ of execution on Aug. 18 to implement the Supreme Court's order of June 2000. As a result, ISM's bank accounts were frozen and the sheriff, on Aug. 11, announced the sale of its real estate assets.

The dispute arose from demands for equal pay and claims for back pay and benefits between 1995 and 2000 by a group of 167 Filipino members of the ISM teachers' union, the majority of whom have already retired.

They had collectively asked the labor department to award them an average of $42,500 each.

Cacdac said the two sides emerged from the final meeting "satisfied." Both had "a logical understanding of what's going on" and were aware of the plight of ISM students and their parents during the negotiations, he said.

The seven-point handwritten agreement was signed by ISAE president Raquel David Ching and ISM Board of Trustees president Robert Ayers.

The teachers originally demanded $4.3 million but lowered the amount to $3.8 million as a final compromise.

The parties agreed to drop other pending legal action at the DOLE and elsewhere, and promised "no retaliatory action against the other."

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas told reporters that the ISM case showed that a long-drawn-out dispute could be settled through government-assisted arbitration.

"This is a good case for alternative dispute resolution. If they only agreed to negotiate before, as they did Sunday, the case should have not dragged on for years," she said.

Sto. Tomas said she was glad both parties had resorted to a negotiated settlement after realizing that long disputes had a way of eroding relationships.

"It's a good thing they realized that they had to settle rather than exacerbate the situation and generate further bad feelings. This agreement should be the start of a healing process for them," she said.

DOLE sources, however, said that both sides really had no choice but to settle. The ISM management failed to get a court order to stop the bidding and was afraid it would get a bad public image if its assets were auctioned off.

The teachers were uncertain if the value of the school property, when sold, would be enough to satisfy their claims. They were also hesitant to endure another tedious legal case.

GMA solons poised to kill impeachment

From page A1

complaint with or without the numbers," he said. He accused the committee of "making a mockery" of the impeachment process.

The gallery roared.

Taguig Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano spoke of massive vote-padding during the polls and of what he called "eight golden hands [of] forgers" who had fabricated election tallies.

Impeachment team leader Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said fabricated election returns were produced on the fifth floor of the Mandarin Apartelle on Banawe Street in Quezon City in late 2003. The serial numbers of the election returns were printed by Crown's Printing in Parañaque, he alleged.

Zamora said the impeachment team had evidence these were smuggled into the House building and exchanged for election returns in the chamber's custody in early 2004.

"The sanctity of the House custody was violated when these election returns were switched clandestinely in the very early mornings," Zamora said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero urged Congress not to kill the impeachment complaint since Ms Arroyo had yet to answer the charges.

"If the President is not hiding anything, why is she so afraid of the impeachment complaint. If it is true that she is not hiding anything, why doesn't she face it?" Escudero said.

The opposition stalwarts spoke during the privilege hour before the House justice committee was to present its report quashing the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo to the plenary for approval.

Hours before the plenary session, leaders of the majority made sure the proimpeachment congressmen would not be able to pull off any surprises.

Led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, the majority gathered all of its loyal members in a caucus at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel to ensure that, even in the event of an opposition walkout, it could maintain a quorum to uphold the committee report quashing the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Emerging from the caucus, De Venecia said voting on the committee report would begin in the evening and that it could drag on until dawn today.

Asked when the plenary would vote on the issue, De Venecia told the INQUIRER: "Either tonight, midnight or at dawn tomorrow."

Pressed if the vote could spill over to Wednesday, the last session day, the Speaker said: "I don't think so."

He said the caucus was called to "present the committee report to majority members" and prepare them for the plenary debates.

'We have the numbers'

Some congressmen said after the two-hour caucus that they were told to just allow proimpeachment congressmen to speak their hearts out.

After the closed-door caucus, an administration congressman was overheard telling someone on the phone that the majority had its forces intact, including those rumored to be switching over to the proimpeachment bloc.

"We have the numbers," the congressman was overheard saying.

The complaints were centered on allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the election by conspiring with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to tamper with the results and ensure her a winning margin of over 1 million votes. The accusations have plunged the Arroyo presidency into its gravest political crisis.

Elusive 79

In the opposition's amended case, some members of Ms Arroyo's family were also accused of receiving payoffs from the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

Ms Arroyo and Garcillano, who has slipped out of the country, have denied any wrongdoing.

The proimpeachment congressmen, whose amended complaint against Ms Arroyo was among those dismissed by the justice committee, would need 79 votes in the 236-member House to overturn the committee report and salvage the impeachment process.

Some 150 congressmen showed up at the caucus, including Ms Arroyo's brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo whose alleged receipt—which he denies—of illegal gambling payola helped trigger the impeachment move.

No closure

In his speech, Cayetano urged Congress not to dismiss the impeachment complaint, saying this would not bring closure to the country's current political crisis.

He called on his colleagues to allow an impeachment trial so that the Senate could judge the evidence against the President.

"We all want the political crisis to end and for the economy to prosper. The problem is, if we all vote to dismiss the three complaints, we won't have peace because we would always go back to the question, 'Madame President, did you cheat? Madame President, did you steal? Madame President, did you lie?'" Cayetano said.

Let the evidence speak

"Why don't we allow the evidence to be heard and allow the lawyers and congressmen and those who want to prove these [accusations] are true to talk face to face. Why are we stopping them?" he added.

To support his call, Cayetano presented a 30-minute audiovisual presentation providing a summary of the proimpeachment camp's evidence.

It included portions of the controversial "Gloriagate" tapes in which Ms Arroyo allegedly consented to the abduction of an election official and shots of purported election returns that allegedly proved administration cheating in Cebu, Pampanga, Bohol and Iloilo.

"Mr. Speaker, can't we plead for us to hear the evidence? … In the end, Mr. Speaker, let us serve the people, let us serve God, and let us say this Congress did everything to search for the truth," he said.

Sad confession

Before the plenary debates, the minority lawmakers said in a news conference that they still did not have the numbers that could override the justice committee decision.

"Over the past few days, we've proved that it is quite difficult to go up against (Ms Arroyo) who is not having second thoughts about using the vast resources of the government to keep the impeachment process against her from moving forward," Escudero said.

"Sadly, we still do not have the numbers," he said.

Zamora said the House impeachment team was now pinning its hopes on the plenary debates, where undecided House members might be swayed into voting for Ms Arroyo's impeachment.

Confront the truth

"To our undecided colleagues, now is the time to confront the truth," Zamora said.

Asked why many members of the opposition had yet to sign the impeachment complaint, Escudero said he and the others were continuing to reach out to them.

"The minority congressmen have not reneged on their duty to talk to their fellow congressmen to sign the impeachment complaint," Escudero said.

He said the impeachment issue had caused a breaching of party lines.

"There are now more majority congressmen who have signed the impeachment complaint than the original 28 minority congressmen who signed the first time," Escudero said.

"True, there is a bigger well of administration congressmen from where we could get more votes," he observed.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House committee on public information that conducted hearings on the "Hello Garci" recordings, said there was still no Nacionalista Party position on the impeachment issue despite the decision of Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, wife of NP President and Senator Manuel Villar, to sign.

No surrender

Still, the impeachment team tried to appear upbeat about its chances.

"Surrender is a word that we never say in any of our meetings," Escudero said.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Ms Arroyo's opponents had only themselves to blame.

"The opposition killed the impeachment by not getting the 79 signatures," he said.

Nograles said the "coalesced majority," as proved by the caucus attendance, would make it difficult for the opposition to get more signatures.

Still, he said, "miracles can happen."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. earlier accused Ms Arroyo of offering cash packages and juicy government positions to still undecided congressmen to keep them in line.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said the opposition lawmakers' admission that they did not have 79 signatures proved that theirs was a lost cause from the start.

Supports GMA

INDEPENDENT
Lagman, Edcel C., *Albay*
KAMPI
Bersamin, Luis Jr. P., *Abra*
Dominguez, Victor S., *Mountain Province*
Dumpit, Tomas M., *La Union*
Celeste, Arthur F., *Pangasinan*
Espino, Amado Jr. T., *Pangasinan*
Tulagan, Generoso DC, *Pangasinan*
Albano, Rodolfo III T., *Isabela*
Miranda, Anthony C., *Isabela*
Antonino, Rodolfo W., *Nueva Ecija*
Garcia, Albert S., *Bataan*
Puno, Ronaldo V., *Antipolo City*
Sumulong, Victor, *Antipolo City*
Gozos, Oscar L., *Batangas*
Alvarez, Antonio C. *Palawan*
Villarosa, Ma. Amelita C., *Occidental Mindoro*
Firmalo, Eduardo C., *Romblon*
Villafuerte, Luis R. *Camarines Sur*
Solis, Jose G., *Sorsogon*
Bravo, Narciso Jr. R., *Masbate*
Biron, Ferjenel G. MD, *Iloilo*
Carmona, Tranquilino B., *Negros Occidental*
Marañon, Alfredo III D., *Negros Occidental*
Arroyo, Iggy T., *Negros Occidental*
Soon-Ruiz, Nerissa Corazon, *Cebu*
Espina, Gerardo Jr. J., *Biliran*
Malanyaon, Corazon N., *Davao Oriental*
Mangudadatu, Suharto "Teng" T., *Sultan Kudarat*
Falcon, Peter Paul Jed C., *Surigao del Sur*
KNP
Pancho, Pedro M., *Bulacan*
Figueroa, Catalino V., *Western Samar*
Lakas
Dangwa, Samuel M., *Benguet*
Domogan, Mauricio, *Baguio City*
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Baterina, Salacnib F., *Ilocos Sur*
Uy, Edwin C., *Isabela*
De Venecia, Jose Jr., *Pangasinan*
Sy-Alvarado, Wilhelmino M., *Bulacan*
Silverio, Lorna C., *Bulacan*
Nicolas, Reylina G., *Bulacan*
Roquero, Eduardo V., *San Jose Del Monte City*
Violago, Eleuterio R., *Nueva Ecija*
Arroyo, Mikey Macapagal, *Pampanga*
Aquino, Rey B. MD, *Pampanga*
Carlos, Bobbit L. M.D., *Valenzuela City*
Zialcita, Eduardo C., *Parañaque City*
Lopez, Jaime C., *Manila City*
Susano, Mary Ann L., *Quezon City*
Castelo-Daza, Nanette, *Quezon City*
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De Guzman, Del R., *Marikina City*
Dy, Consuelo A., *Pasay City*
Ermita-Buhain, Eileen, *Batangas*
Reyes, Victoria H., *Batangas*
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Salceda, Joey Sarte, *Albay*
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Puentevella, Monico O. *Bacolod City*
Javier, Exequiel B., *Antique*
Garin, Janette L MD., *Iloilo*
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Durano, Ramon VI, *N. Cebu*
Cuenco, Antonio V., *Cebu City*
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Fua, Orlando Jr. A, *Siquijor*
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Apostol, Trinidad "Ebbie" G. Leyte
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Mercado, Roger G., *Southern Leyte*
Real, Isidoro Jr. E., *Zamboanga del Sur*
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Cua, Junie E., *Quirino*
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Castro, Fred H., *Capiz*
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Gullas, Eduardo R., *Cebu*
NPC
Bulut, Elias Jr. C, *Apayao*
Lapus, Jesli A., *Tarlac*
Joson, Joselina M., *Nueva Ecija*
Joaquin, Uliran T., *Laguna*
Seachon-Lanete, Rizalina, *Masbate*
Cojuangco, Carlos O., *Negros Occidental*
Alvarez, Genaro Rafael III K., *Negros Occidental*
Kintanar, Simeon L., *Cebu*
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Veloso, Eduardo K., *Leyte*
Barinaga, Roseller L., *Zamboanga del Norte*
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Badelles, Alipio "tikbong" V., *Lanao del Norte*
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PDP
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PDSP
Jalosjos-Carreon, Cecilia G, *Zamboanga del Norte*
Jalosjos, Cesar G., *Zamboanga del Norte*
REPORMA - LM
Clarete, Ernie D., *Misamis Occidental*

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Jaworski, Robert "Dodot" Jr., *Pasig City*
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Tañada, Lorenzo III R., *Quezon*
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Acosta, JR Nereus O., *Bukidnon*
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Cayetano, Alan Peter S., *Taguig-Pateros*
Villar, Cynthia A., *Las Piñas*
Remulla, Gilbert C., *Cavite*
Chipeco, Huston "Timmy" SB, *Laguna*
NPC
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Fuentebella, Arnulfo P., *Camarines Sur*
Santiago, Joseph A., *Catanduanes*
Lopez, Ruy Elias C, *Davao City*
Antonino-Custodio, Darlene R., *South Cotabato*
Pingoy, Arthur Jr. Y., *South Cotabato*
Plaza, Rodolfo "Ompong" G., *Agusan del Sur*
PMP
Zamora, Ronaldo B., *San Juan*
PARTYLIST
Aguja, Mario "Mayong" Joyo, *AKBAYAN*
Hontiveros-Baraquel, Ana Theresia "Risa"
AKBAYAN
Rosales, Loretta Ann P., *AKBAYAN*
Marcoleta, Rodante D., *ALAGAD*
Halaman, Mujiv, *AMIN*
Noel, Florencio "Bem" G., *AN WARAY*
Beltran, Crispin B., *ANAKPAWIS*
Mariano, Rafael V., *ANAKPAWIS*
Casiño, Teodoro A., *BAYAN MUNA*
Ocampo, Satur C., *BAYAN MUNA*
Virador, Joel G., *BAYAN MUNA*
Villanueva, Emmanuel Joel J., *CIBAC*
Maza, Liza L., *GABRIELA*
Maghubo, Renato B. *PARTIDO MANGAGAWA*

GMA Resign (but didn't sign)

KNP

Lagbas, Danilo P., *Misamis Oriental*
Dilangalen, Balsendig G., *Maguindanao*
LDP
Crisologo, Vincent "Bingbong" P., *Quezon City*
Malapitan, Oscar G., *Caloocan City*
Hizon, Josy D., *Manila City*
LP
Diaz, Antonio M., *Zambales*
Roman, Antonino P., *Bataan*
Sandoval, Federico II. S., *Malabon/Navotas*
Nantes, Rafael P., *Quezon*
Valencia, Rodolfo G., *Oriental Mindoro*
Abayon, Harlin C., *Northern Samar*
NPC
Macias, Emilio II C., *Negros Oriental*

Undecided

Kampi
Baculio, Augusto H., *Misamis Oriental*
Lakas
Magsaysay, Ma. Milagros "Mitos" H., *Zambales*
Dumarpa, Faysah RPM, *Lanao del Sur*
Vicencio, Romualdo T., *Northern Samar*
Umali, Czarina? Oyie, *Nueva Ecija*
Salapuddin, Gerry A, *Basilan*
LP
Abaya, Joseph Emilio A., *Cavite*
Mandanas, Hermilando I., *Batangas*
Suarez, Danilo E., *Quezon*
Magdalo
Remulla, Jesus, *Cavite*
NP
Taliño-Santos, Emmylou "Lala" J., *North Cotabato*
NPC
Ortega, Manuel C., *La Union*
Cojuangco, Mark O., *Pangasinan*
Estrella, Conrado III M., *Pangasinan*
Ponce, Enrile Juan Jr.C., *Cagayan*
Dy, Faustino III G., *Isabela*
Nepomuceno, Francis "Blueboy" L., *Pampanga*
Bondoc, Ana York, *Pampanga*
Teodoro, Gilberto Jr. C., *Tarlac*
Asistio, Luis A., *Caloocan City*
Serapio, Antonio M., *Valenzuela City*
Duavit, Michael John "Jack" R., *Rizal*
Rodriguez, Isidro Jr. S., *Rizal*
Imperial Carlos R., *Albay*
Espinosa, Emilio Jr. R., *Masbate*
Romualdo, Jurdin Jesus M., *Camiguin*
Cagas, Douglas RA, *Davao del Sur*
Bautista, Claude P., *Davao del Sur*
Garcia, Vincent J, *Davao City*
Ipong, Gregorio T., *North Cotabato*
PARTYLIST
Tomawis, Acmad M., *ALIF*
Madamba, Sunny Rose A., *APEC*
Pablo, Ernesto "Ernie" C., *APEC*
Valdez, Edgar L., *APEC*
Señeres, Christian M., *BUHAY*
Velarde, Rene M., *BUHAY*
Chavez, Leonila V., *BUTIL*
Cua, Guillermo P., *COOP-NATCO*
Gidaya, Ernesto S. *VFP*

Withdraw

LDP
Agbayani, Rodolfo Q., *Nueva Viscaya*
PARTY LIST
Magsaysay, Ma Eulogio "Amang" R. PhD, *AVE*

Katrina damage to global economy to last . . .

From page A1

likely to return to the levels of early 2004 when they were 50 percent lower than they are today, according to International Monetary Fund Managing Director Rodrigo de Rato.

Katrina shut down large portions of oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico at a time when worldwide energy output was already stretched thin.

While the storm's impact was most acute in the United States, it also sent fuel costs higher around the globe—rising to records above $70 a barrel last week—squeezing consumers in Europe and Asia and hurting everyone from truckers to fishermen to airlines.

In Katrina's aftermath, forecasts for US economic growth in the fourth quarter have dropped from 3.5 percent on an annualized basis to 2.5 percent. And that is probably what gross domestic product will average for all of 2006, economists said.

The storm wiped away up to half a million jobs in New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas. And its tab is almost certain to top $100 billion, with only about a quarter of that covered by insurance, according to an assessment by Risk Management Solutions of Newark, California.

The US retail sector will face its toughest Christmas since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers.

"There's a psychological impact. Consumers aren't in a festive mood," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Economic crisis

Surging oil prices have already sparked an economic crisis in Indonesia. The nation's currency, the rupiah, has fallen to a four-year low against the US dollar as ballooning fuel subsidies to keep prices affordable for the masses are bleeding the government's coffers.

Seeking to avoid a meltdown, the central bank hiked interest rates and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told the nation he would have to cut subsidies at some point—in effect raising gasoline prices for consumers.

With China's economy growing at a rate of 9.5 percent, no one is forecasting a dramatic slowdown there, but the impact from higher energy prices has already been felt in shrinking profit margins, regional shortages of gasoline and diesel, auto purchases and international travel, among other areas.

To offset higher oil prices in Thailand, the government has introduced an economic stimulus package and an array of energy-saving measures, including mandating that billboards be illuminated for only three hours a day and requiring gas stations to close at night.

Thai fishermen have also felt the pinch. In recent months, more than 5,000 fishing boats, accounting for almost one-third of total fishing boats in southern Thailand, have gradually stopped operating as fuel costs ate up their profits, according to Prasant Silphiphat, president of the Fishermen's Association of Thailand.

Andy Xie, an economist at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, says that economic growth rates across Asia are down by a third to a half of last year, thanks mostly to higher oil costs. "Growth rates could decelerate by another 1 percentage point due to further rises in oil prices," he wrote in a recent report.

The impact of higher energy prices is already hitting hard in Europe, where up to 60 percent of the retail price is made up of taxes.

Europe hit hard

The price of gasoline rose to the equivalent of $6.70 a gallon in Germany and hit a record high in Switzerland. Spaniards were paying more than $5 per gallon at the end of last week, up nearly 7 percent from a week earlier.

Eurasia Group's Halff noted that the impact soaring energy prices would have on household budgets would be even more significant in emerging economies around the globe as governments begin to roll back costly fuel subsidies.

The US federal government has pledged billions of dollars of rebuilding funds, but it will take months for the basic recovery efforts to be completed before the money for reconstruction starts flowing. "This is such a different type of disaster than we're accustomed to dealing with," Vitner said.

The full extent of the damage to oil and natural gas infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico is not yet known, but it is expected to be weeks, if not longer, before output is back to normal. The same goes for the facilities that refine crude oil into gasoline, heating oil and jet fuel.

"It's quite likely that the impact of Katrina on energy production will end up dwarfing that of Ivan," said Antoine Halff, director of global energy at Eurasia Group in New York, referring to last year's Hurricane Ivan, which jolted global oil markets for months.

"We have an economy that has shown signs of slowing. With energy prices at extremely high levels—and now moving above those levels—this is kind of a double whammy," Halff said. *AP*

Seller of rare birds . . .

From page A1

Lovebirds Unlimited, would soon be the subject of a complaint after he offered an imported endangered bird to one Mundita Lim. She turned out to be the executive director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

Lim said she decided to check Ko's stall at SM Megamall on Sunday after receiving tips from conservationists that Lovebirds Unlimited was selling wildlife and endangered birds without a permit.

"He (Ko) did not recognize me so I asked about the prices of the birds. He even offered to sell me a black palm cockatoo from Indonesia for P70,000," Lim said in an interview at the PAWB yesterday.

Second sting operation

Bolstered by Lim's personal confirmation of the alleged illegal activity, a team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources swooped down on Ko's stall late Friday.

The team seized two mynahs, two red and blue lories, and a red-vented cockatoo—a critically endangered species. The birds are now at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City.

This was the second time the DENR tried to conduct a sting operation at SM Megamall. It failed to get anything the first time because the endangered birds were no longer on display at the stall.

'Only pets'

Lim said Ko tried to excuse himself by saying the birds were his pets and were not for sale, but the DENR presented flyers from his stall listing his merchandise, which included endangered species.

"He can't fool us. I was there before. He tried to sell me the birds," she said.

Ko's stall was offering budgerigars, African lovebirds, lories, cockatiels, mynahs, blue napped parrots and cockatoos, according to the flyer.

The cockatoos can live up to 50 years with proper care, it said.

Drawing the line

"We encourage breeding even for commercial purposes to relieve pressure on collection, but you need to have a permit to prove that the birds were not just collected from the wild but were bred from a registered collection," Lim said.

She said Ko failed to present a permit to breed that would prove he was authorized to breed his pets and sell them.

He would be charged with violation of RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Besides Lim, the DENR has identified other customers who would testify that they bought endangered birds from Ko and that the birds had become sick soon after their purchase.

Lim said this could be an indication that the birds were recently harvested from the wild.

"Those collected from the wild usually get sick when kept as pets because they are not used to confinement and take time to adjust to a new diet," she said.

Agreement

The DENR signed a memorandum of agreement with 14 other government agencies and private groups last week to curb the illegal wildlife trade in Metro Manila, identified as the destination of illegally harvested animals.

Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro, who heads the campaign against wildlife trade, said the DENR was surveying malls that could be selling endangered species.

Lim and De Castro also presented to Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor yesterday a wounded Philippine eagle rescued by a farmer in Isabela two weeks ago. The eagle will be rehabilitated in Los Baños, Laguna.

METRO
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Death for 4 in businesswoman's abduction

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AFTER SEVEN YEARS ON TRIAL, the lives of 14 persons accused in the abduction of Chinese-Filipino businesswoman Michelle Siu Ragos will take different turns as a court handed down its decision on the case yesterday.

Four of the accused were given the death penalty, seven were sentenced to a life term, while three were acquitted, according to a decision handed down by Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda of the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court Branch 275.

Bayan Abbas Adil, alias Jordan Adel; Jimmy Alunan, Alex Daliano and Omar Kamir were found guilty as principals for kidnapping and serious illegal detention for ransom, and were meted the death penalty.

Adil, reported to be the mastermind of the kidnapping, Abbas and Alunan were principals by direct participation, while Daliano, and Kamir were principals by indispensable cooperation, said Maceda.

Rowena Amal Rajid, Teng Usman, Muslimen Wahab, Ali Matoc, Rocky Mocalam, Nhokie Mohamad and Brahim Lidasan were given the penalty of Reclusion Perpetua, or life imprisonment, for acting as accomplices in the kidnapping.

Saimona Camsa, Sofia Hassan and Sumulong Lawan, on the other hand, were released yesterday. "There was insufficiency of evidence. They are accordingly acquitted on the ground of reasonable doubt," said Maceda in his verdict.

Sandra Marie Coronel, Ragos' lawyer, said she and her client had expected that not all of the accused would be sentenced.

"But we were able to prove that these people had their own part in the crime," she told reporters.

Coronel said she would call up Ragos, who had closed down the family business and fled to Hong Kong after the incident, to tell her the good news.

On the other hand, there was mixed emotions among the 14 accused.

Some had a hint of smile on their faces. The others held each other's hands, crying.

Ragos, a 37-year-old supervisor of an electric lighting factory in Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City, was taken at gunpoint from her office on the evening of Oct. 30, 1998.

The businesswoman was detained in two safehouses in Las Piñas City for eight days until she was rescued by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force then headed by Panfilo Lacson, now a senator.

Her kidnappers had asked for a P30 million ransom, but her family paid the gang P4.83 million.

In the course of the trial, the prosecution witnesses, including Ragos and state witness Tadioden Bauting, positively identified all 14 accused as the perpetrators of the crime.

Bauting was a watchman at Ragos' factory.

He and Alvin Diang, another watchman, were reportedly offered P500,000 by a certain Roy Bansuan to cooperate in the kidnapping.

Diang's case is being tried separately since he was arrested only in July 2004.

Bansuan, on the other hand, had not been sentenced because he is still at large.

"Trial by absentia is not allowed," said Maceda.

Cop nabbed for kidnap, rob raps; 2 others at large

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA POLICE ARRESTED over the weekend two people, including a colleague, who allegedly kidnapped a Chinese-Filipino businessman last month.

The suspects, who were presented to Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday morning, were identified as PO2 Jeffrey de Guzman, 32, assigned to the District Anti-Illegal Drugs Division of the MPD; and Aurelio Pavo Jr., 28, a tricycle driver from Tondo, Manila.

Two of the suspects' alleged cohorts, De Guzman's brother, P02 Clifford de Guzman, assigned to the Quezon City Police District; and Police Insp. Marijon Perez, assigned to Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna, remain at large and are now the subject of an intensified manhunt operation.

Manila Police District Director Pedro Bulaong said charges of kidnapping for ransom, robbery and car theft had been filed against the suspects.

A police report showed that John Y. Chua, 35, of Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, was driving his white L300 van along Jose Abad Santos Avenue in the morning of Aug. 6 when the suspects, on board a Delica van bearing a TMG commemorative plate, blocked his path.

The suspects alighted and shoved the victim at gunpoint inside the Delica van and sped towards Caloocan City, while another suspect drove the victim's vehicle. Chua told police that the suspects took his cell phone, cash, ATM cards and blank checks.

He added that the suspects showed him a plastic sachet containing methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and accused him of selling drugs.

The victim was then ordered by the suspects to call up his relatives and to ask for P100,000 in exchange for his release. But the victim's family negotiated and haggled with the suspects to lower the ransom demand to P50,000, the report added.

Chua was freed near the Chinese General Hospital after a payoff was made at a fast-food chain in Quezon City, the same day.

De Guzman and Pavo and arrested following the recovery of the victim's vehicle from a buyer.

The buyer's curiosity was aroused after he was unable to get the original documents showing the ownership of the vehicle.

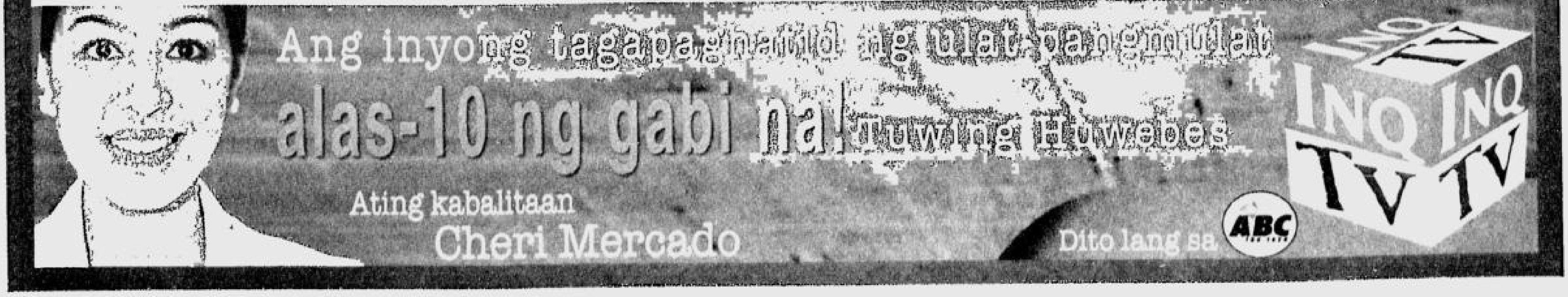
PS-2 WPD DETAINEE
PS-2 WPD DETAINEE

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza, with MPD Chief Pedro Bulaong, PO2 Jeffrey de Guzman, Aurelio Pavo Jr. and John Chua. REM ZAMORA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
tvguide
ABC
Wow maling Mali!
Sabado 9pm
Ang mahiwagang Bowl
featuring "Ang Alamat ng Bakla"
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN					Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championship				Sentro	Strange But True	Ang Maton				Big News	Three Blind Dates		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hokaler	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		For Love Or Money 3		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		Nuts	Outrageous	Chili Factor	King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	The 70's House	MTV Pop Inc		Laguna Beach	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		MTV Play		Diyes		Burned	Newlyweds	Advance Warning	Next Big Thing Finals Special	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN					LPGA Golf State Farm Classic 2nd Round				Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Sportscenter Asia	World Pool Masters '04 Ann Zoo, Holland		2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship				Sportscenter Asia
Sports Plus											Tour De France								
Cinemax			Dead in the Water (3:45 PM)			Ironweed (5:15 PM)					Weekend War			Cabin Fever			American Pie: The Wedding		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Regenesis		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Regenesis		Betrayed			Agency II (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unstalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Deadly Women		Ancient Egyptians		Austin Stevens		Submarine		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Extreme Survival Science Mysteries		Science Mysteries	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		The Mafia		Riddles Of The Dead		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Interpol Investigates		Air Crash Investigation	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is it Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN	Now See This	Lost				Now See This	Now See This	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Amazing Race V		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)		House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Reno 911	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Crank Yankers	Family Guy	WWE Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Dad (3:15 PM)				Jade (5:15 PM)				Iron Jawed Angels				Deadwood 03: Reconnoitering The Rim		Deadwood 04: Here Was A Man		The Fighting Temptations (11:05PM)	
Star Movies		Antwone Fisher (3:15 PM)				Diana: A Tribute To The People's Princess				Flavors				Air Force One				Nicholas Nickleby (11:05PM)	
Cinema One		Hindi Kita Malimot				Noon At Ngayon				Afuang				Booba				Antipolo Massacre	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millennium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

INQBOX Question of the Week

Choose one: (1) President Arroyo should be impeached; (2) Impeachment process will not succeed, street protests should oust President; or, (3) President Arroyo is doing fine and should complete her term. (Pls. explain vote)

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wil each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!! U*

Win this *Inquirer shirt

inquirer box name/age/city/message.
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

Leader of bank rob gang slain in Makati shootout

Luige A. del Puerto

FOR FOUR YEARS, THEY PASSed themselves off as policemen living in the financial district of Makati City.

But police said they were, in fact, remnants of the notorious Kuratong-Baleleng robbery gang of the 1990s.

In May, the group, which the police tagged the Dipolog-Ozamis Robbery Gang, was suspected of pulling off the P50 million heist at the Allied Bank branch on Vito Cruz in Manila—the biggest bank robbery so far this year.

Jailbird

On Friday, the police said the gang led by Jose Capundag, who escaped from the Sablayan Penal Colony in Occidental Mindoro in 2000, robbed a hardware store in Carmona, Cavite, of an undetermined amount of cash.

Capundag, allegedly a close relative of slain Kuratong leader Wilson Soronda, is a primary suspect in the killing of a politician in Ozamis City.

"We traced them (Kuratong group) to a townhouse," said Supt. Albert Ferro of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Armed with an arrest order, a police team under Sr. Supt. Zoilo Lachica confronted Capundag and Riel Bautista, another escapee, on Washington Street corner Buendia Extension in Makati City. But the two resisted arrest. Capundag was killed in the shootout.

No way out

Ferro said Bautista was cornered minutes later.

Records showed that Bautista, also known as Renato de la Peña, was facing charges for four counts of robbery, two counts of car theft, illegal possession of firearms, and violation of the anti-drugs law.

In a follow up operation, the police also arrested Joseph Calamaro, allegedly another member of the robbery group.

They found three shotguns and several rounds of ammunition in Calamaro's rented room a few blocks from the townhouse.

"He (Calamaro) kept the guns and acted as 'logistics officer' of the group," Ferro said.

"The townhouse owner was angry at the group, and had described them as abusive policemen," he added.

In a press conference yesterday, the police said the group was responsible for a series of small- and big-time robberies in Metro Manila and neighboring areas, particularly Cavite. *With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy*

PNP on full alert for rallies

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE IN METRO MANILA WILL MAINTAIN A full alert status this week in anticipation of protest actions against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 115,000-strong Philippine National Police has already been placed on heightened alert since the Lamitan bombing last month.

Anti-riot troops from Regions 3 and 4 are also on standby, in case the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) would need more troops to guard Congress and other possible rally sites in the capital, according to PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Quoting PNP directorial staff chief Arturo Lomibao, Bataoil called for "calm and sobriety" regardless of the results of the impeachment proceedings in Congress.

"We ask people to remain calm. We also ask protest organizers to... respect the rights of others during their demonstrations," Bataoil said.

On Sunday, NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol said the police would allow anti-Arroyo protests even if rallyists did not permit.

"But they... should not block the gates and the roads (going to Congress)," Querol said. The police set up a 50-meter security zone near the gates of Congress that protesters could not enter.

A stormy debate was expected in Congress as lawmakers decide this week on the fate of impeachment charges against the President.

The President's allies in the House of Representatives' justice committee voted last Wednesday to throw out all three impeachment complaints against her in a session boycotted by opposition lawmakers who accused their pro-Arroyo counterparts of railroading the decision.

The 236-seat House, dominated by the President's allies, is expected to vote this week on whether to accept or reject the committee's decision.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is accused of rigging last year's election—and of bribery, corruption and other crimes. She has denied any wrongdoing and has refused to resign.

Querol said the capital's 16,000-strong police force was on full alert starting late Sunday.

More than 300 policemen will be deployed outside Congress to keep order and a standby military force could be tapped if protests got out of hand, he said. A clash between activists and riot police injured 26 people at the gates of Congress last week.

Rallies will not be allowed at the Edsa shrine, site of "People Power" revolts that ousted Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Arroyo's predecessor, Joseph Estrada, in 2001, Querol said. Police were also concerned about persistent reports of possible terror attacks in the capital, he added.

A pro-administration lawmaker, who later backed impeachment charges against the President, claimed her legislative supporters were rushing to clear her of the charges before she left for the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

With an AP report

Resigned exec bares corruption at DOTC

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's administration won't be brought down by impeachment, perhaps graft and corruption will if she doesn't kick out the grafters among her trusted subordinates.

A top official at the Department of Transportation and Communications resigned his position because he said he could no longer stand the corruption at the agency.

Former Pangasinan town mayor Antonio Villar Jr., assistant secretary for air transport, said he would rather serve in another government agency where officials are less corrupt.

Excerpts from Villar's letter to the President:

"...I feel preempted by the system that you have vowed to reform, even nauseated by the web of corruption in the bureaucracy, particularly in the land transport sector of the DOTC.

"I must admit I can no longer hide my dissatisfaction with the DOTC to a point that some people, in and outside of the administration, may have mistaken me ripe for recruitment to the other side of the political spectrum. They are absolutely wrong as I would rather be a credible non-partisan critic of misgovernance.

"Short as [my term] may seem, it has been a great honor for me and my family to have been of service to the Filipino people and the Administration."

* * *

Villar is former mayor of Sto. Tomas town where Fernando Poe Jr., GMA's closest rival, got zero in the last year's presidential elections.

To show her gratitude, the President appointed Villar Transportation and Communication assistant secretary.

As an ex-politician, it would have been easier for Villar to go with the tide, so to speak, at the DOTC. But he didn't and that made him an "odd ball" at the corrupt agency.

Villar didn't mention the extent of corruption at the DOTC, but an insider cited some of the reasons the ex-mayor became disgusted with the agency.

On the issuance of smoke emission test:

- A permit to operate emission testing centers can easily be bought from some DOTC officials—from P800,000 to P1 million.
- Vehicles subjected to testing need not be brought to the testing center. The irregularity of vehicle non-appearance is nationwide.

Compliance with the Clean Air Act, therefore, is a farce.

- Suspension orders for testing centers that were suspended for practicing vehicle non-appearance were lifted for a huge amount paid to a DOTC undersecretary.

On the issuance of drug testing certificates:

- Permit to operate can be bought from the Department of Health.
- Little or no post-accreditation inspection is conducted to ensure quality testing.
- Testing facilities such as those in the Southern Licensing Center of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) are located inside a shopping mall. This set-up is conducive to the operations of "fixers" who are in cahoots with corrupt LTO officials and employees. (This corner already exposed the irregularity of having an LTO office inside a mall where "fixers" operate with impunity. After the exposé, the LTO main office wanted the licensing center transferred to another location, but the plan did not push through. I heard some top DOTC officials pressured the LTO chief, Annalyn Lontoc, to defer the transfer).

At the LTO licensing center, located at the Coastal Mall in Parañaque, fixers quarreled with one another to offer their services to license applicants. Applicants don't have to go to a drug-testing clinic for inspection because only clerks take their urine sampling. There are no doctors and medical technologists.

METROBRIEFS

Marikina pays tribute to policemen

KAYO AY TUNAY NA BAYANING PILIPINO!

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY HISTADES

BETTER late than never. Six police officers who died in the line of duty would be remembered on Sunday in an annual tribute for fallen comrades on Police Memorial Day in Marikina City. "All the honorees died in the line of duty and were buried in the city," said Loreto Santos, co-chair of the civic action team in charge of this year's memorial celebration. Santos said some of the honorees could have died 35 years ago, but this does not mean that they were forgotten. These men are: Patrolman Lorenzo T. Santos, who died in 1970 when he single handedly engaged cab robbers in a shootout; Cpl. Ernesto Lopez, who also died in a shootout with gasoline station robbers in 1987; Cpl. Isidro Lesaca Sr., who died when he tried to arrest drug pushers in 1983; Cpl. Magtanggol B. Gatapia who was shot to death when he tried to flag down a vehicle ridden by robbers, PO2 Victor Santiago who was shot by robbers in a hot pursuit operation in 2001, and Gen. Carlos C. Javier, the first head of the Philippine National Police Academy, Gen. Carlos C. Javier. Expected to attend the celebration are local government officials , relatives of the fallen policemen and Police Director Arturo Lomibao as the guest speaker. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Drive to expose cable TV thieves gains ground

THE INTENSIFIED campaign against the proliferation of illegal cable television connections has gained momentum with full support on the community level. Subscribers have begun giving information about incidents of cable TV signal and subscription theft, including the identity of individuals who offer the installation of illegal connections. Acting from tips from subscribers tired of getting bad cable signals and virtually paying for the illegal cable connections of others, cable industry personnel recently conducted a series of raids in five different spots in Makati City. Residents with illegal connections were invited to police stations and barangay halls for interrogation in connection with possible qualified theft charges to be filed against them. The charge carries a jail term of six to 12 years. The sweep was the third in a series of raids in different cities in Metro Manila.

Feeding program in Mandaluyong

MANDALUYONG Mayor Neptali Gonzales II recently launched the Alagang Health Center Program to improve the services in the city's 26 health centers through an intensified health campaign offering five-star quality public health services, modern facilities, and efficient and friendly health care providers. The highlight of the health campaign is the launching of a six-month feeding program for 182 malnourished children from 4-6 years old who belong to poor families in the city.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

What is a noun for an unpleasantly moist, soft, and slippery substance?

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

Prizes at stake:
Weekly Prize: One (1) Winner – P 20,000 in Cash
Grand Prize: One (1) Winner – P 200,000 in Cash
Note: The 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

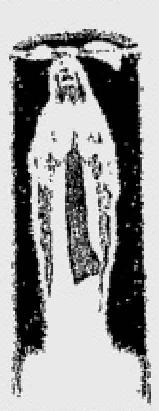
See print ads and flyers for complete details.

INQUIRER
Promo runs from July 17 to December 3, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227, Series of 2005

Why are we offering this authentic

Statue Of The Virgin In The *Miraculous* Water Of Lourdes?

If you have one or more wishes you would like to come true quickly, read the following, before it's too late:



During my last trip to Europe, I was amazed to see how many people had these sumptuous statues of the Virgin. But what surprised me most was that this statue — made in Lourdes, France — is covered by a clear dome FILLED WITH THE MIRACULOUS WATER OF LOURDES.

The first question that came to mind was: "Just why do so many people have this statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes?" I immediately went to Lourdes to find out. What I discovered there is amazing.

It is no surprise that for more than a century, two million pilgrims have been travelling annually to Lourdes to be close to these waters with their limitless powers. And some of these individuals even manage to bring back some of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes with them.

Water of Lourdes: Miraculous Water with limitless powers

The Virgin has appeared *18 times* in Lourdes. And so Lourdes is considered to be the prime location on earth for powerful beneficial forces — the place where the world's most numerous and astounding miracles occur. There is no scientific explanation for the beneficial forces concentrated in the waters flowing from the sacred source in the Cave of Miracles.

Wherever this Water goes, the beneficial powers of Lourdes follow

A vast number of people who possess even a few drops of this water constantly attest to the positive changes and fortunate events that occur in all aspects of their lives: money, love, success, luck, fulfillment and happiness.

It is perhaps even more incredible that these fortunate events occur for people of all races, creeds and origins!

Even for non-believers! And the kinds of miracles that occur are wide ranging and varied. Thousands of testimonials are incontestable proof of those miracles.

For example, these are those who needed money — and received it unexpectedly:

• Mrs. E.S. Bureyng, Pasay City, My Virgin Mary night light statue has bring me lots of wonderful happenings in our life. I was cured of my sickness in my lungs. My husband was cured of his emphysema & COPD. She's my guardian.

• R. Macornig, Parañaque City, I am thanking Mama Mary for all the blessings, she's giving our family. I am specially happy, she granted my wish for my niece & my brother-in-law. My niece was accepted as resident pathologist in New York while his father was recently promoted in post in Korea. Aside from these, I primally received lots of favors and blessings from her. I really feel that she's always there for me whenever I needed her. Again, many thanks to our dearest Mother Mama Mary.

• Ms. D. Ching, Late last year, I experienced pain on my left neck down to my shoulder. The pain was too much, I had a hard time turning around. I tried different kinds of pain relievers but to no avail. One Sunday, I chanced upon an article on Phil. Star Week Magazine regarding Our Lady of Lourdes Immersed in Holy Water. I decided to order so to experience a miracle. When the Lourdes was delivered to me, I rubbed it to my neck and asked Mama Mary to help heal me. I did it continously for several days, and before I knew it the pain was gone. I indeed experienced the healing touch of Mama Mary. I'm really thankful to have ordered the Our Lady of Lourdes Immersed in Holy Water.

And these are just 3 examples. Three example among thousands upon thousands of others.

Five thousand scientists who were skeptical or who didn't believe in the supernatural powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes went to Lourdes to study them. And while they could not explain all the miracles they observed, they had to admit these miracles did in fact occur. They even certified that the Water of Lourdes is genuinely miraculous.

For the first time you can now receive this authentic statue of the Virgin covered in a dome filled with the Miraculous Water of Lourdes

If you cannot travel to Lourdes, France, and to these Miraculous Waters... the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes can now come to you. And they can stay with you. Not just for a few days or a few weeks. But *FOREVER*. Don't forget that *wherever* this Water goes, the limitless powers of Lourdes go with it.

Each statue of the Virgin is made in Lourdes and hand-painted by talented craftsmen. Each statue is then covered with a phosphorescent mystic substance to make it glow in the dark. Then these craftsmen protect the statue in a clear protective dome filled with the Miraculous Water, taken directly from the original source in the Cave of Miracles

Consequently, it is no surprise the value of th.. statue and the Miraculous Water in which it is immersed is inestimable. What's more, the source of Lourdes Water is small and the demand for its water is worldwide.

If you have any wishes you want to come true quickly, order your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Water of Lourdes.

A contribution of only P378 is requested per statue to cover its importation expense.

As president of the Lourdes World Research Organization, I was able to bring some statues back with me on my return to Europe. To my knowledge, this is the first time — and perhaps the last — they are available. And quantities are very limited.

To receive one or more statues, just fill in and mail the coupon below to the indicated address. We ask a mere contribution of P378 per statue to contribute to their distribution costs (+airfreight charges, insurance and customs handling).

Unfortunately, we probably will not be able to meet all requests. To benefit from this very special offer, please sign the document appearing on the coupon. By doing so you agree merely to send us a brief letter about the fortunate and unexpected events you experience thanks to the powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes surrounding your statue.

President, Lourdes Research Organization

Note: Order will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't you think it would be a shame to fail to benefit from this special offer today, by responding too late?

To be sure to reserve your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes, fill in the coupon below right now and mail it today — *and no later than midnight of Friday of next week.*

Guarantee: If for any reason you no longer wish to keep your statue/s of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes at some point in the future, just return it. Your contribution will then be *immediately* returned to you IN FULL.

• Made by qualified craftsmen in Lourdes, France
• Glows in the dark!
• Accompanied by a certificate of authenticity stating that it is contained in a transparent dome filled with water taken from the source of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes

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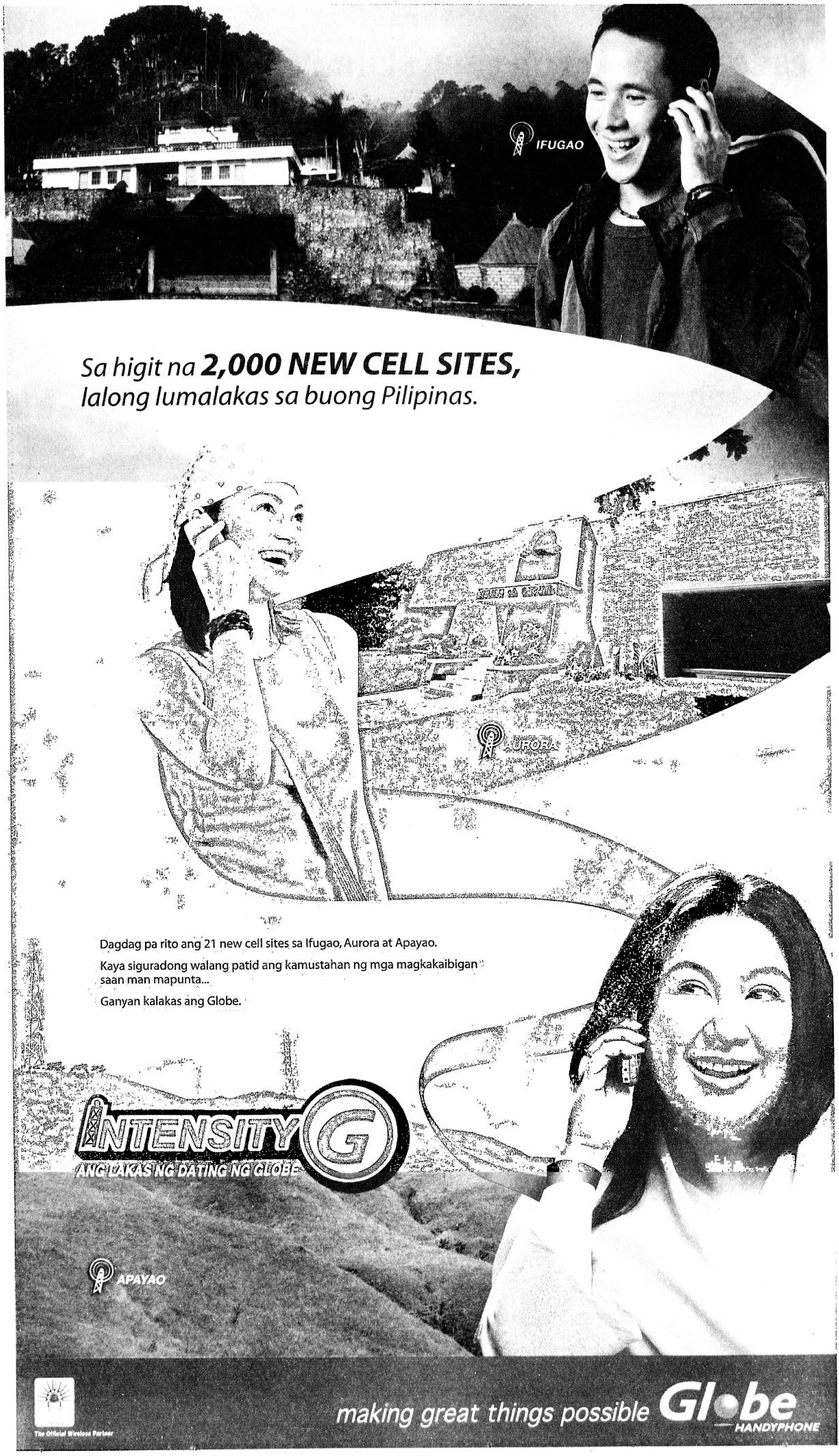
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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.; Sports Plus – It's down to the last 16 in the year's final grand slam event

GOLF: LPGA State Farm Classic; 4:30 p.m.; ESPN – Check out the second round from Springfield, Illinois.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 Italian Grand Prix, Race Day; 9:30 p.m.; STAR Sports

PBA: Unite or we abandon you

Pro league urges POC, BAP to work together for lifting of Fiba suspension

By June Navarro

RECONCILE OR GO IT ALONE.

The Philippine Basketball Association will follow this tack in a bid to help settle the rift between the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Basketball Association of the Philippines that has driven the national team in limbo.

Speaking in behalf of the PBA Board of Governors, league chairman Ely Capacio asked the two warring sports bodies to iron out their differences or risk being left on their own as far as any Philippine team campaign is concerned.

"The PBA demands, in no uncertain terms, from the POC and the BAP to work towards the immediate restoration of the active status of the country with the Fiba," said Capacio after yesterday's regular board meeting.

"Otherwise, neither our program nor resources will be utilized by any group or body for any international basketball competition," said Capacio.

The International Basketball Federation (Fiba) has suspended the country from participating in any of its sanctioned tournaments following the BAP's expulsion from the POC last June.

As a result, the country was barred from competing in the Fiba-Asia Championships in Doha, Qatar which will be staged beginning Thursday.

The Fiba-Asia Championships is the qualifying event for the world championships in Saitam, Japan next year.

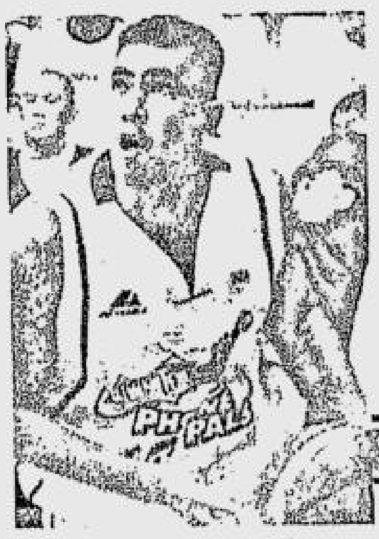
An Inquirer source, however, said the league will give the POC and the BAP one month at the most to join hands and work together for the lifting of the Fiba suspension.

Responding to a nationwide clamor, the PBA started lending its pro stars to the national team in the Asian Games in 1990. This year, the PBA signed an MOA with the BAP, shifting its focus on competing in the Asian championship in a bid to possibly return to the Olympics in 2008.

Washington goes to TNT for Yancy

WASHINGTON/ A26

WASHINGTON: Prized catch



DE OCAMPO: Air 21's gain

SEA Games holiday?

OFFICIALS OF THE Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) are discussing whether to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare the entire duration of the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 Games a holiday. Philsoc and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. reportedly wants majority of the Filipino people to cheer for the athletes in their bid to win their first ever SEA Games overall crown.

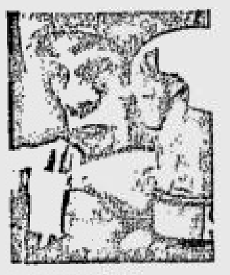
82
days to go before
23rd SEA Games

* * *

ABOUT 800 athletes seeing action in the 23rd SEA Games and 100 coaches and officials will go to Puerto Azul in Cavite on Sept. 24 for a fun day and a team building session with officials of the Philippine Sports Commission led by chair William "Butch" Ramirez. *Musong R. Castillo*

Tañamor, Tipon slug way to gold medals

HO CHI MINH—Harry Tañamor and Joan Tipon slugged their way past tough rivals to capture gold medals Sunday in the 23rd Asian Seniors Boxing Championship at the Pan Ding Phung Stadium here.



TANAMOR

Tañamor, who won a silver in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, captured the gold in the light flyweight division with a 48-40 victory over Athens Olympics bronze medalist Hong Moo Woon of South Korea.

Tipon then capped a momentous day for the Philippines-Ginebra San Miguel team as he outclassed Oigonchuklun Bathkuu of Mongolia to win the bantamweight gold medal.

The Filipino showed no respect for the Mongolian's status as a Busan Asiad silver medalist, asserting his superiority with masterful boxing highlighted by three-punch combinations to the face.

TAÑAMOR/ A26

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Sickening

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT HAS become this ugly. And no one seems to care anymore.

The BAP said it did nothing wrong to deserve the brickbats it is now receiving.

The POC has said basically the same.

The BAP stand has always been that the POC should readmit the BAP into the Olympic movement so that basketball will not be scrapped in the SEA Games. That is a stand derived essentially from Fiba, the world governing body of basketball. Fiba, which still recognizes the BAP, has said basketball will be out of the SEA Games if the POC does not reaccept the BAP.

The POC stand has always been that it will never return the expelled BAP to the POC. It has already recognized the PBF in place of the BAP.

As I said earlier, the Fiba is way out of line in continuing to recognize the BAP. That is tantamount to intervention, if not an utter disrespect for the very existence of the POC.

What Fiba wants us to do is bow to its wishes. What has happened here, and continues to happen, is the complete reverse. Instead of Fiba heeding us, we are being forced to heed Fiba. Grotesque.

Fiba wants it to appear that it knows better than us. Worst, it has called the POC decision expelling the BAP as "politically motivated."

Thirty-three of 35 NSA presidents had political motives when they voted to expel the BAP?

I can't buy that line.

Congruent to its decision to suspend Philippine participation in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments, Fiba also said it would investigate the expulsion of the BAP.

It never did. What it did was hear the BAP side, never the POC side.

From the very start, therefore, Fiba had taken sides. Partiality was the name of the game.

Pro-BAP from Day One.

Anti-POC from Day One.

The job of any world sport governing body on matters of membership recognition is basically ministerial in nature. If a country's Olympic body—in the case of the Philippines, it's the POC—has admitted an association into its fold, it becomes almost a done deal if that association is endorsed for membership in the proper world sports body.

That was the case of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, which got the Fide nod when the POC stopped recognizing the Philippine Chess Federation.

Why the Fiba can't do the same is not only mind-boggling but sickening.

Peping Cojuangco, the POC president, was a politician, that's why the BAP expulsion was "politically motivated?"

I don't know, but that is a most unkind remark hurled Peping's way, indeed.

What I know is, Peping had only one vote in the 35-man strong General Assembly present during the voting process that decided BAP's fate. It could be possible, but definitely improbable, for Peping to have swayed the thoughts of the other 32 NSA presidents who voted to expel the BAP. That'd be the unkindest conclusion of them all. Not only to Peping but, more importantly, to the 32 NSA presidents.

Were they merely puppets on a string?

Did Peping have a hold on all of them?

Should Fiba's answer to both is yes, by all means let's all believe Peping never liked the BAP from the very start.

* * *

Bob Wang and Tony Joseph, both USGA licensed raters from Malaysia, have done a great job rating recently the Manila Golf Club, Navy, Villamor, Valley, Malarayat, The Country Club, Intramuros, Punta Fuego and Isabela, among other NGAP-member clubs in the country.

Bob and Tony, both retired colonels, will also rate two clubs as per request coursed through the National Golf Association of the Philippines by the WGAP (Women's Golf Association of the Philippines), which specifically wants both the white and blue tees of the yet unnamed clubs rated, too.

"With these course-rated clubs, basic questions on proper handicapping are now absolutely resolved," said Admiral Louie Fernandez, the NGAP secretary general. "More will be rated in the coming days as requests for Bob and Tony to also rate their clubs keep pouring in."

As everybody now knows, the Manila Golf Club and The Country Club are the venues for the women's and men's golf competitions, respectively, in the coming SEA Games.

* * *

FASTBREAK. I wish Gov. Enverga of Quezon success in his province-wide basketball tournament set to start shortly. Louie Visorde's team from Calauag has been touted to crowd the favorites in the 10-team event.

TNT acquires Washington

TALK 'N Text found no need for the rookie draft after all.

Already blessed with one of the toughest lineups in the PBA, the Phone Pals yesterday grabbed No. 1 draft choice Anthony Washington after earlier securing the services of No. 5 pick and last year's UAAP Most Valuable Player Mac Cardona.

The two prized acquisitions came courtesy of the Air 21 Express, who have been changing coaches every year in their search for a first title, but now have to make do with backup center Yancy de Ocampo after acquiring ageing veteran guard Patrick Fran.

The Washington-De Ocampo trade was completed yesterday with Air 21 team manager Lito Alvarez declaring that the Express now have a complete team with the return of the 6-foot-9 De Ocampo to the Bert Lina-owned franchise.

Shipped to the Phone Pals last season where he became the reliever of Asi Taulava, De Ocampo will be reunited with his brother, Ranidel. The siblings will now join hands in manning the slot for the Express.

Prior to the trade, the Express had signed up the 6-foot-5 Washington for three years worth P8.5 million.

The Phone Pals will absorb Washington's P150,000 monthly take on his rookie year, P225,000 next season and P337,500 on the final year plus perks and bonuses.

"It's a win-win trade," said Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas. "We both got what we wanted."

The Phone Pals earlier found a replacement for the injured Willie Miller when the Express gave up Cardona for Fran, a tough defender ranked No. 4 in the Phone Pals' guard rotation. *June Navarro*

La Salle asks UAAP to rethink decision

Pumaren claims he called 'valid timeout'

By Jasmine W. Payo

CLAIMING THAT A "VALID TIMEout" had been made, La Salle appealed to the UAAP board yesterday to overrule the technical committee's decision nullifying the Archers' 86-83 overtime win and declaring the University of the East Warriors the victors of last week's game.

"There was nothing illegal that happened in that game," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "It was a valid timeout concurred by the table officials."

Acting on an official UE protest last Saturday, the UAAP technical committee ruled that La Salle wasn't entitled to a timeout in the last 1.8 seconds of regulation since the ball was already in possession of the player assigned to make the inbound.

When play resumed after the timeout, La Salle managed to beat the clock with a basket that forced the extension, 74-all. It went on to win the game.

Pumaren said the officials acknowledged his call for time and that his players failed to hear the timeout buzzer in the uproar that followed UE's last basket.

"If you will recall, commissioner Joe Lipa approached the table official and the table official confirmed that there was a timeout and that they should reset the clock," said Pumaren.

"My players didn't hear the buzzer, that's why they held the ball. That's what really transpired."

The UAAP board, headed by Fr. Max Rendon of host Adamson University, will issue its final decision on Sept. 9.

"I feel confident that the board will be open-minded on this matter," said Pumaren.

Warriors mentor Dindo Pumaren, Franz's younger brother, said everything is just part of the game.

"We're both professionals," he said. "Any coach would do the same thing that we did. But we'll have no problem if they reverse the decision."

Both teams also figured in a controversial match in the first round.

Citing non-calls on goal-tending violations, the Archers contested their 56-57 setback against the Warriors, but the league's technical committee dismissed La Salle's complaint.

DISPUTED MATCH: La Salle's JR Aquino of La Salle contests the loose ball with Angelus Raymundo and Jorel Canizares of UE as Archer Joseph Yeo looks on. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tañamor, Tipon cop golds in Vietnam

From page A25

Tipon easily won, 31-15, and so impressed boxing chief Anwar Chowdry and the organizers that he was later voted as the best boxer of the tournament.

The twin wins enabled the country to rank second overall behind Pakistan, which won three golds. Thailand, the country's main rival in the coming Southeast Asian Games here, won one gold.

Tañamor, the lone boxing gold medal winner in the last SEAG in Vietnam, used his left hook and right straight to pile up a big lead in the first two rounds. When the Korean tried to come back by uncorking body blows, Tañamor danced out of trouble starting from the third round.

"We studied my rival closely because I wanted to get back at him," said the overjoyed Tañamor in Filipino. Hong last beat him in the Athens Olympics quarterfinals.

"This augurs well for our SEAG campaign," said Amateur Boxing Association president Manny T. Lopez, who also served as head of delegation. He also thanked the First Gentleman Foundation, Ginebra, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission for supporting the trip.

Para Games countdown on

THE 100-day countdown to the 3rd Asean Para Games starts today with Philippine APG Organizing Committee chair Michael Barredo and Manila Sports Council chief Ali Atienza leading simple ceremonies at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

Highlighting the ceremonies is the unveiling of a counter that will tick off the number of days left before the Games come off the wraps on Dec. 14.

Atienza, a former Asian taekwondo champion and the chair of the Games committee on ceremonies, said he is looking forward to the week-long sportsfest, adding: "We are very happy to be part of this endeavor. All parties involved are committed in holding the event. Everything's working well and I think Papgoc can open the Games as early as today."

Over 1,500 performers from schools in Manila have been tapped for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games as Atienza assured Papgoc that festive rites await the participants and spectators.

"We are ready and since we still have time, we are even trying to think of other things to spice up the ceremonies," Atienza added.

Pagulayan gains World Pool Masters semis

DONCASTER, ENGLAND—FORMER WORLD champion Alex Pagulayan survived a tough battle with Marcus Chamat, 8-7, Sunday to sneak his way into the semifinals of the 888.com World Pool Masters at the Doncaster Dome.

The final quarterfinal clash became the third to go to a final rack decider and it was Pagulayan who came out on top in the battle of the tournament's little big men.

Chamat took three of the first five racks and, for only the second time in the tournament, a dry break was produced in rack six as Pagulayan failed to drop a ball.

The Filipino-Canadian worked his way back to 5-5 but then hooked himself on the 1-ball, and Chamat cleaned up to regain the lead.

It was all see-saw from there until Pagulayan took the 15th and last rack.

"I admit I was lucky," said Pagulayan, who is representing Canada in the tournament.

In other quarterfinal battles, Britain's Raj Hundal downed the Czech Republic's Roman Hybler, 8-6, thanks to a ball which jumped back out of the pocket; and the United States' Rodney Morris nipped the Netherlands' Alex Ley, 8-7.

Hybler potted an 8-ball only to see it bounce back out again as some Divine intervention ensured Britain's No. 2 would reach the last four.

In today's pairings, Germany's Thomas Engert clashes with Hundal and Pagulayan battles Morris.

PAGULAYAN

DANCESPORT CHAMPS. The winners of the recent Dance Sport Council of the Philippines midyear ranking and competitions (Youth A Latin category) held at the Philsports Arena are shown with DSCP chair lawyer Noel Laman (right), president Becky Garcia and Petron Corp. president Khalid Al-Faddagh (left). The winners are Rener Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio, first; James Paul Talusan and Garcia Mae Melencio, second; and Gisbert Igaya and Marisse Melencio, third. These young athletes are expected to dominate the SEA Games' dancesport competitions on Nov. 27 in Cebu City.

RP plasters East Timor in pre-SEAG football tilt

BANGKOK, THAILAND—THE Philippines whipped East Timor, 4-1, Saturday to finish third in Group A of a pre-Southeast Asian Games tournament at the Supachalasai National Stadium here.

The Filipinos drew a goal each from Jose Ombos, Peter Jaugan, Jerome Orcullo and Emilio Caligdong in their final match of the event organized by the Asean Football Federation.

The Philippines lost to Myanmar, 6-2, in its first match and then gave Malaysia a scare in a 2-1 loss in its second outing.

Six Filipinos scored a total of seven markers in their three matches. Caligdong led them with two in the absence of striker Ali Borromeo.

Asuela, Albelar top Shell chess

ELLAN ASUELA HURdled his last four assignments, including a seventh-round victory over Eric Abanco, over the weekend to cop the juniors crown in the sixth leg of the 2005 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM City in Iloilo. The 17-year-old Asuela, playing out of Domingo Lacson National School, swept the Swiss system meet put up by Pilipinas Shell. The victory, worth P5,000, netted Asuela a stint in the national finals next month, along with runner-up Reginald dela Peña (6.5 points) of West Negros College and Abanco (6). Kritz Albelar also swept the kiddies' category with 7 points. Other awardees were Ma. Josella Uy of WNC, top female player; 6-year-old Rorajay Capiz Balitaon (youngest player), San Jose Catholic School (50 players in kiddies), and Central Philippine University (42 players in juniors).

SPORTSWATCH

Badilla, Verano advance in Iriga net tilt

IRIGA—Eric Paul Badilla of Baao, Camarines Sur, ousted Christian Ondivilla, 8-5, in the boys' 12-under division over the weekend to start his quest for a playing berth in the Malaysian junior circuit on a bright note in the South Luzon regional finals of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Usant Tennis Club here. Joining Badilla in the next round was Joshua Verano who downed Quinrej Dimabogte, 8-3, in the rain-marred tournament organized by CTW and backed by Adidas. In other matches, Mark Ramos routed Kevin del Castillo, 8-1, and Edgardo Formalejo whipped Shanon Gabad, 8-1, in the unisex 10-under; Fritz Bernales tripped Tommy Reyes, 8-5, in the boys' 14-under; and Ma. Carmelita Formalejo edged Alyssa Medenilla, 8-7, and Medeline Ramos downed June Matubis, 8-3, in the girls' 12-under division.

NCA stagfest kicks off today in Makati

THOUSANDS of cockfight enthusiasts converge at Makati Coliseum tonight as the National Cockers Association (NCA) presents the NCA 7-Stag Derby. Slated tonight is the 3-stag elimination round while the championship sizzles on Thursday. Hosts are Gov. Ito Yñares, the Firefly Group and Danilo Jiao. Among the NCA members are Reps. Ronnie Puno, Gerry "Boy" Espina, Iggy Arroyo, Butch Pichay, Jing Paras, and Nonoy Libanan, Danding Cojuangco, Yñares, Firefly Group, Georgie Antonio, Jiao, Richard Bates, chair Rudy Albano, Patrick Antonio and Vice Gov. Boyet Joson. For inquiries, call 8963545 and 8956475.

Estrellado posts hard-earned GCAP win

LAGUNA breeder Pol Estrellado posted five hard-earned wins with his entry PE Farms Friday night to top the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. GCAP, a powerhouse group of 30 prominent cockers led by Patrick Antonio, will next stage the Super Big Event 8-Stag Derby on Sept. 13 and 15 at the new San Juan Coliseum. "Since San Juan Coliseum will have its grand opening on that date, it is only fitting that GCAP holds the Big Event derby there," Antonio said. San Juan Coliseum boasts of modern airconditioning system, world-class facilities and a country-style townhouse where participants can stay during the derby. For inquiries, call Ariel at 0917-8061691.

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Race 4—1. Julie's Dancer 2. Binukalan's Pride 3. Drink N Drink
Race 5—1. Prickly Heat 2. Blitzkrieg 3. Reign of Roses 4. Princess Dancer 5. Can and Will
Race 6—1. Speed Highness 2. Maximum Exposure 3. Sharp Cookie 4. Cheska Run
Race 7—1. Gigi's Gold 2. Extreme Connection 3. Secret Angel 4. Seven Lakes 5. Original
Race 8—1. Gold Money 2. Stradivarius 3. She Jinsky 4. Well Noted 5. Extreme Illusion 6. Hit the Wire

Woods 7 strokes off pace; Andrade stays bogey-free

TIGER Woods watches his tee shot on the 15th hole during the third round. AFP

NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS—Local hero Billy Andrade played another round of bogey-free golf for a share of the lead in a group of five at 10-under-par after third-round play at the $5.5-million Deutsche Bank Championship Sunday.

World No. 1 Tiger Woods, who had led by a stroke after opening with a 65, continued to struggle, following his second-round 73 with a 72 to finish at three-under 210, seven shots off the pace.

Andrade, who has not won since the Invensys Classic at Las Vegas in 2000, started and finished with a birdie for a two-under 69 and a 54-hole total of 203. He has not made a single bogey in the tournament.

"I hit a lot of really good putts. I think I putted as good as I've ever putted," said Andrade, who hails from nearby Bristol, Rhode Island.

Joining Andrade at the top of the crowded leaderboard were John Rollins (63), Swede Carl Pettersson (68), second-round co-leader Olin Browne (70) and Jason Bohn (67).

Rollins, a lowly 90th in the PGA Tour money list, reeled off nine birdies, three bogeys and an eagle three.

"I played great on the back (nine), hit the ball great, made some putts and here we go," said Rollins, who shot a course record 28 on the back nine. Rollins finished one stroke ahead of Joey Sindelar (69) and Kent Jones (63). *Reuters*

Garcia snares Euro Masters

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, SWITZERLAND—Sergio Garcia clinched his first European Tour title of the season with a one-shot victory at the European Masters on Sunday after chipping in for birdie at the par-three 16th.

GARCIA AP

The world No. 6, one stroke clear overnight, had surrendered a four-shot advantage with a mid-round stumble before recovering on his way to a three-under-par 68 and a 72-hole total of 14-under 270.

Sweden's Peter Gustafsson secured second place with an equal best-of-the-week 64 with British Ryder Cup player Paul Casey a further shot back in third after a 66.

Defending champion Luke Donald, also of Britain, returned a 69 to tie for fourth at 11 under with compatriot Garry Houston, who carded a 70.

Garcia had looked unassailable after reeling off four birdies in five holes from the fourth, overpowering Crans-sur-Sierre's shorter par-fours and forging well ahead of the chasing pack with a 200-foot birdie putt on eight.

Garcia dedicated the win to his young friend and former amateur playing partner, Maria Garcia-Estrada, who died on Saturday after battling lung cancer. *Reuters*

Lebedeva gets $1M

BERLIN—TATYANA Lebedeva's decision to withdraw from the triple jump final at the World Championships has paid off in a $1-million windfall.

Nursing an Achilles' tendon injury at last month's worlds in Helsinki, the Russian qualified for the final but decided not to risk aggravating the injury.

Lebedeva would have been favorite for the title. But she already had won two of them before and making the injury worse could have robbed her of a chance to win a much bigger prize, at least financially.

The plan paid off when she captured the $1-million Golden League jackpot Sunday by winning the triple jump competition at the final of the six-meet-series. *AP*

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THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

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CINDERELLA MAN 1:00 / 3:45 / 6:30 / 9:15
SKELETON KEY 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
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6 GOLD (SDDS) LONGEST YARD
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
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Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
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2 BEWITCHED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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3 CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

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3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS

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2 ARAHAN
3 (DOLBY) EYE INFINITY
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2 PUSANG GALA

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3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
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1 MUST LOVE DOG
2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 (DOLBY) ARAHAN

Lianas Cinema
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2 ITLOG
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 (DTS) PASAWAY

Lianas MovieCity
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3 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 SAGAD
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ARAHAN
2 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
3 KALAPATI SA GABI
4 MUST LOVE DOGS

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DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Venus trips Serena; Sharapova wins

SERENA Williams rues a missed point against sister Venus in their fourth round match. REUTERS

NEW YORK—FAR FROM A FAMILY feud, matches between Venus and Serena Williams create a family crisis.,This time neither of their parents could watch.

Artistry gave way to sheer slugging again in Sister Act XIV, the ongoing saga of siblings who hate to play each other—especially if it's not for a Grand Slam title.

Venus' 7-6 (5), 6-2 victory Sunday to reach the quarterfinals at the US Open evened their head-to-head matches at 7-7 and gave the elder sister her second win this year after losing six straight to Serena.

It was the ninth time they met in a Grand Slam match, and the earliest since Venus won the first clash in the second round of the 1998 Australian Open. Serena had won their last five matches in majors—all in finals.

Venus next plays No. 4 Kim Clijsters, a 6-1, 6-0 winner against Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi.

Women's top seed Maria Sharapova had no trouble dismissing India's rising star, Sania Mirza, 6-2, 6-1, and next plays fellow Russian and No. 9 Nadia Petrova, a 7-6 (4), 7-5 victor over Nicole Vaidisova of the Czech Republic.

Defending men's champion and top seed Roger Federer advanced to the round-of-16 with a 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-2 victory over Olivier Rochus. Federer next plays Nicolas Kiefer.

Former champion Lleyton Hewitt bested Taylor Dent, 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (2), 6-2, 7-5. Italy's Davide Sanguinetti subdued Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan 6-3, 4-6, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) in 4 hours, 24 minutes. *AP*

Brazil makes 06 WC

BRASILIA — WORLD champion Brazil maintained its record as the only country to have played at every World Cup when it routed Chile, 5-0, with an Adriano hat-trick on Sunday to qualify for next year's tournament.

Brazil, the first defending champion to have been forced to qualify for the subsequent tournament, also dealt Chile's hopes a severe blow on a hot afternoon at the Mane Garrincha stadium.

Brazil raced to a 4-0 lead in half an hour as defender Juan headed his second international goal, Robinho finished an end-to-end move and Adriano added two more. The Inter Milan player completed his hat-trick in injury-time.

The only frustration for Brazil was that Ronaldo completed his sixth international without scoring.

Brazil stayed second in the 10-nation South American group with 30 points from 16 games and closed the gap on pacesetter Argentina to one point.

Chile are sixth with 20 points, five behind fourth-placed Paraguay. The top four teams qualify for Germany and the fifth play off against the Oceania region winners. *Reuters*

Sox oust Orioles; Yanks up

NEW YORK—DAVID Wells pitched a complete-game seven hitter on his return from a six-game suspension as the Boston Red Sox knocked off the Baltimore Orioles 5-1 in American League play Sunday in Boston.

John Olerud hit a three-run homer to key a five-run fifth inning to give the AL East leaders the rubber game of a three-game series, as Boston improved to a major-league best 46-20 at home.

Wells (12-6) retired the last 12 batters he faced and did not walk a batter, allowing one run and striking out four.

He missed his regular turn in the starting rotation for losing his appeal of a suspension for arguing with umpires on July 2. It was his first nine-inning complete game of the season.

In Oakland, Shawn Chacon pitched 6 2/3 solid innings to lead the New York Yankees to a 7-3 win over the Athletics.

The Yankees moved into the lead in the AL wild card race with the win, one game ahead of the A's, who also slipped into second place in the AL West one game behind the LA Angels. *Reuters*

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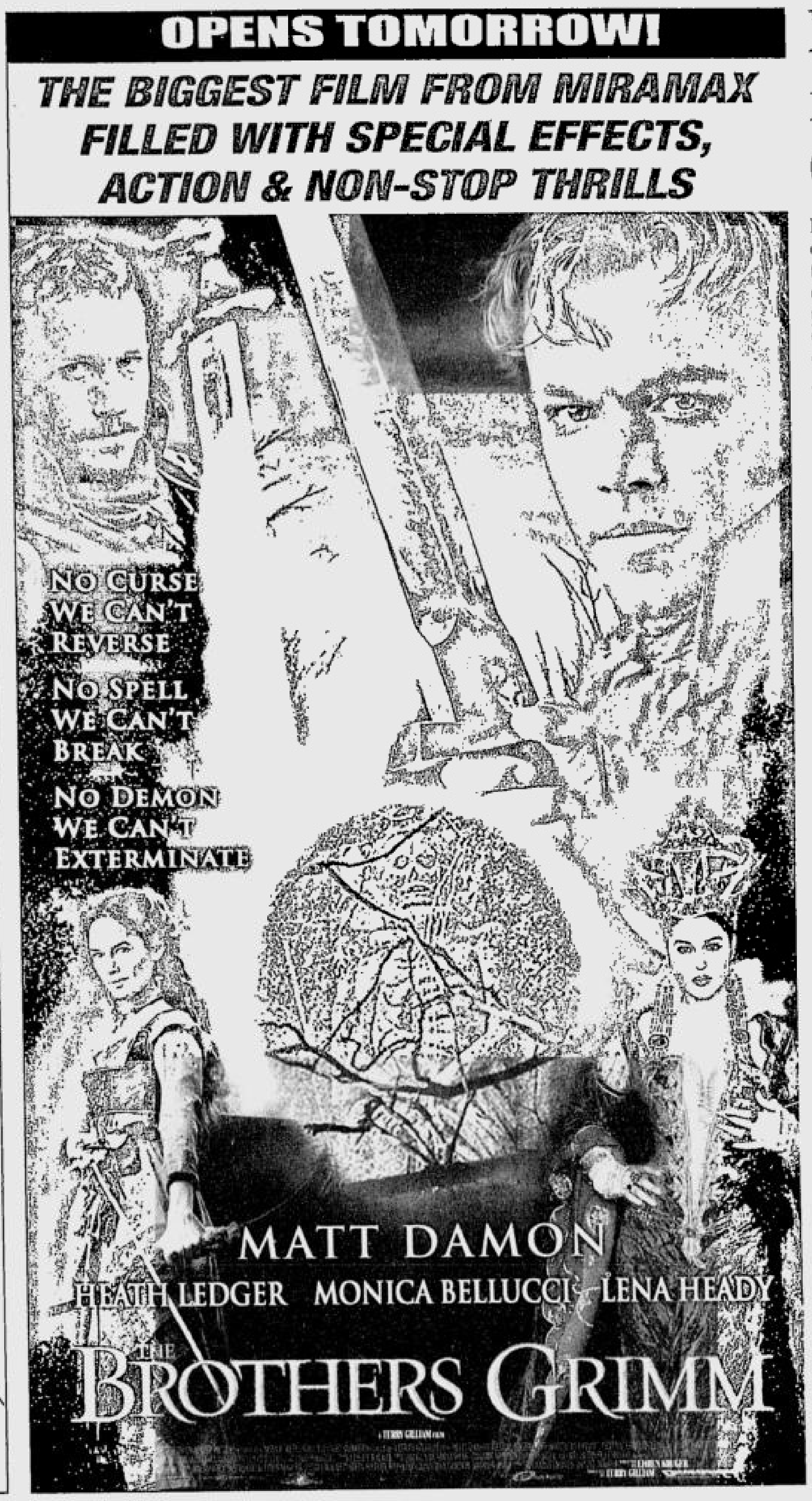
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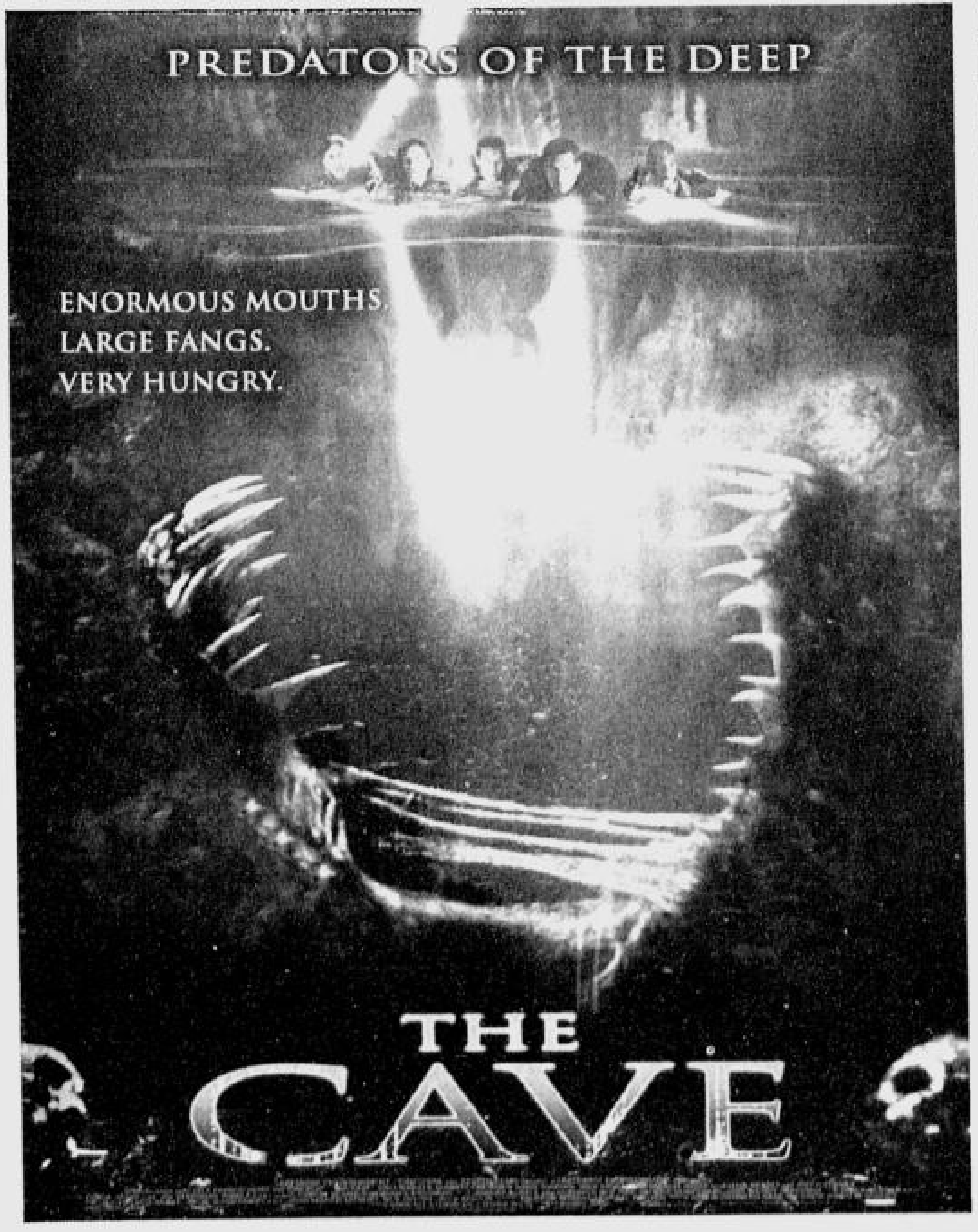
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LARGE FANGS.
VERY HUNGRY.
THE CAVE

IN THE TRADITION OF "AMERICAN PIE" COMES THE GROSS-OUT COMEDY OF THE YEAR.
CHRIS KLEIN BRENDAN FEHR

THE LONG WEEKEND
TWO BROTHERS. ONE WEEKEND. AND A WHOLE LOT OF SEX.
OPENS TOMORROW

AND now, she's taking on literary classics.

Oprah Winfrey: Power of one woman reading

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TRUST **Oprah Winfrey** to take the power of one woman reading, and to use her popular TV show to multiply it exponentially into a renewed worldwide enthusiasm for great literature.

Some years ago, "Oprah" launched its host-inspired Book Club with monthly recommendations of generally contemporary novels that had a lot to say to the modern woman. That was significant enough, but the effort petered out after some time.

After a not-so-brief hiatus, Oprah revived her book club, but with an inspired difference in focus: it is now recommending literary classics.

From "100 Years of Solitude" to "Anna Karenina" and "The Good Earth," Oprah's Book Club challenges readers to sink their eye teeth into really absorbing and complex works that stretch their appreciation of literature of and life itself.

You would think that, now that Oprah has raised the stakes, many readers would fall by the wayside. But the opposite has happened: Oprah's challenge has rubbed her show's viewers the right way, and they've been reading—and reading—with an exuberant and inspired vengeance.

Take "Anna Karenina": The book club has given **Leo Tolstoy**'s tome a new lease on life, pushing it up to the top of the book charts. This, despite the fact that the weighty book runs 817 pages long!

Oprah's readers admit that they didn't have an easy time plowing through all those pages, words, plot twists, complex themes and numerous principal characters—but, they're glad they did!

In the process, Oprah's Book Club has added 70,000 new members. Its success is no accident, but the result of the host-producer's creative use of her show's clout to generate interest in her reading campaign.

She has made reading not just interesting but also exciting, visiting neighborhoods all over the United States in her Bookmobile to literally thrill people into reading!

Oprah's book club has made reading fun and "in," which is why it counts a lot of young people among its members. Yes, despite the hyper allure of technology, Oprah's personal endorsement of the joys of reading has enticed many youths away from their electronic toys, to savor the richness, illumination and consolation of great literature.

Such is the enormous, seminal power of one (popular and persuasive) woman reading!

Feedback

FROM **LOI Reyes Landicho** of Makati City: "I tried to monitor ABS-CBN's overhyped reality show, 'Pinoy Big Brother,' for a week. But, on the fourth day, I decided to stop watching. My system could no longer take its inanity and pretense.

"Save for the good production values, the local version of the Euro import is a dud. The contestants lack character, and when they open their mouths, you lose further interest watching.

"It was too *pilit*. A glaring example: the attempt to play up a romantic angle between two contestants who were together for less than 48 hours. No wonder, the love angle fizzled out by the suceeding telecast.

"The show apparently lacked substantial material during the first four telecasts. Sans the silly challenges, you see little but a bunch of strangers talking nonsense to one another. The editing could only do so much to save viewers from the show's display of lethargy.

"I should credit the show, though, for legitimizing voyeurism on local TV. If not for the MTRCB's intervention, sleaze would have become the main fare on prime time television. Thank God for cable TV!"

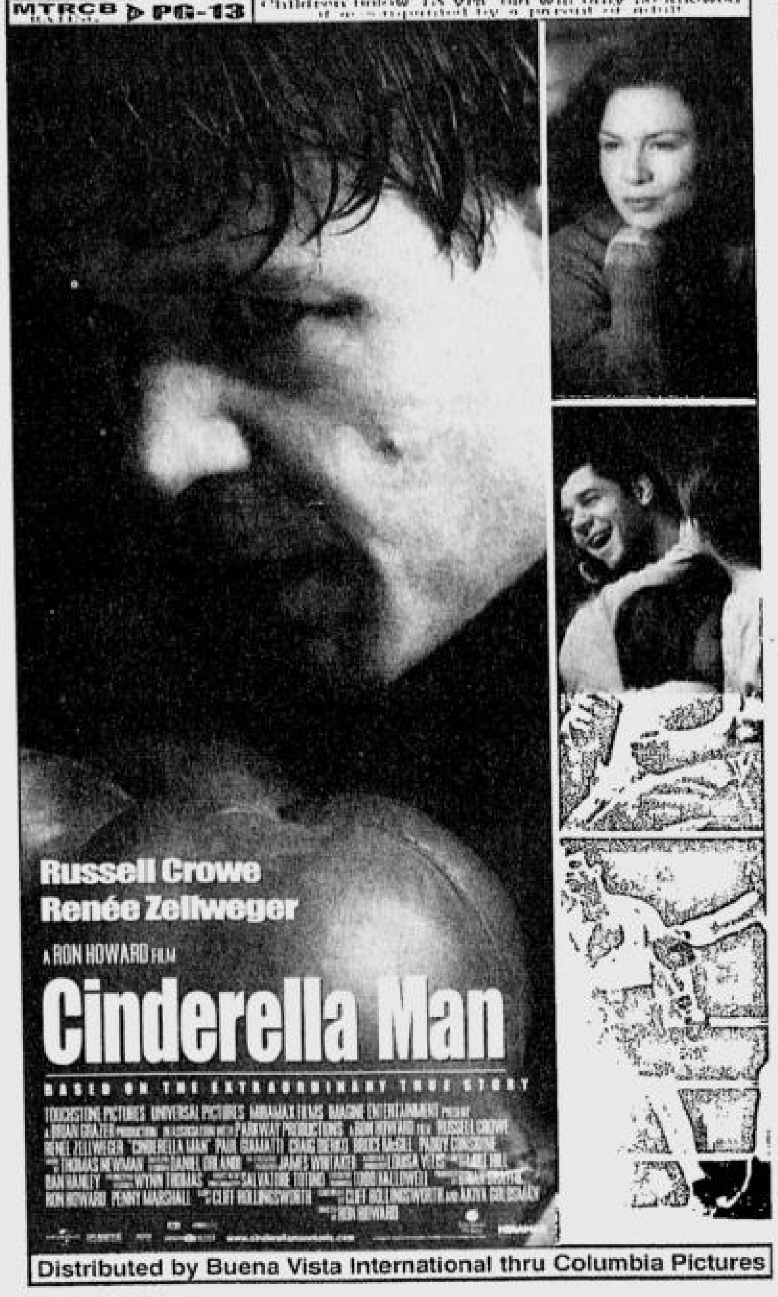
'Beautiful Intentions'

MELANIE C (Chisholm of the defunct Spice Girls) has released her new album, "Beautiful Intentions." Melanie has co-written all of the songs in the compilation, except the first single, "Next Best Superstar," by **Adam Argyle**. The song is a comment on celebrity culture and the perils of instant fame. The accompanying video is directed by Ray Kay.

Another album highlight, "Better Alone," tells of feeling let down, and how to deal with a loss.

Easy English seminars

CORBAN Learning Center has slated a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday and/or Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m., for students, housewives and professionals. This is comprehensive package of conversation, grammar, pronunciation and writing that runs for 40 hours. Call 8426665 or 0917-6297718.



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CINEMA 5 SKY HIGH GP 10:55, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10
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④ CINDERELLA MAN MTRCB PG-13 1 00, 4 00, 7:00, 10:00
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SKY HIGH GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:00
CINDERELLA MAN PG13 1:10,4.10,7:10,10,10
THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13 1:25,3:36,5 45,7 55,10:05
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2 THE CAVE 01:50FS/02:25MF/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END
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THE CAVE 10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50 09:30LFS/10:00LFS/10:40END
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3 THE CAVE 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END
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7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
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2 CRASH
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4 BEWITCHED
SM CITY LUCENA
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3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM CITY BAGUIO
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2 BEWITCHED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 CRASH
SM CITY MARILAO
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2 SKELETON KEY
3 D' ANOTHERS
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1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 BEWITCHED
3 CRASH
4 THE EYE INFINITY
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SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 WEDDING CRASHERS
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2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 BEWITCHED
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID
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3 YEAR OF THE YAO
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5 BEWITCHED
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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 CINDERELLA MAN
Sneak Preview

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL EYES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 CINDERELLA MAN
Sneak Preview

4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

5 THE LONGEST YARD
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 SKY HIGH
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 THE CAVE
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 EVIL EYES
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

2 THE CAVE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 CINDERELLA MAN
Sneak Preview

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

6 SKY HIGH
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 EVIL EYES
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
4 COACH CARTER

PIONEER 687-6378

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview

Russell Crowe
Renée Zellweger
Cinderella Man

SNEAK PREVIEWS
at
Robinsons
MOVIEWORLD
galleria • ermita • metro east • pioneer
imus • stramills, pampanga • angeles

September 5 & 6

MTRCB Rating: PG-13
REGULAR Showing: September 14

For SCREENING SCHEDULES,
pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555
or visit us
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 SKY HIGH
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
5 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview

LIPA (043) 757-3664 / (043) 312-5870

1 ARAHAN
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 / (046) 416-4332

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CRASH
4 BEWITCHED

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKY HIGH
4 EVIL EYES

IMUS (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKY HIGH
5 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 / (045) 961-5270

1 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 BEWITCHED
5 VALIANT
6 THE GREAT RAID

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / (034) 441-0459

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 CRASH
6 MGA PUSANG GALA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

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Perfect Gift
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

ALABANG TOWN

AYALA CENTER
CEBU

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At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BPI's Real 0% Christmas Wishlist Installment Madness September 7 to 25, 2005	The Magic of Curtis September 9 to 11, 2005	IECEP-VRC's Regional ECE Quiz Bowl September 10, 2005

AYALA
Greenbelt

Catch GREG BEHRENDT
Sex And The City consultant
and author of the #1 best seller He's Just Not That Into You
September 15 & 16

Greenbelt 1 Onstage
AYALA CENTER

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
The Taming Of The Shrew
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
Sept. 2, 3, 4, 8,10, 13, 23, 24 & 25

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

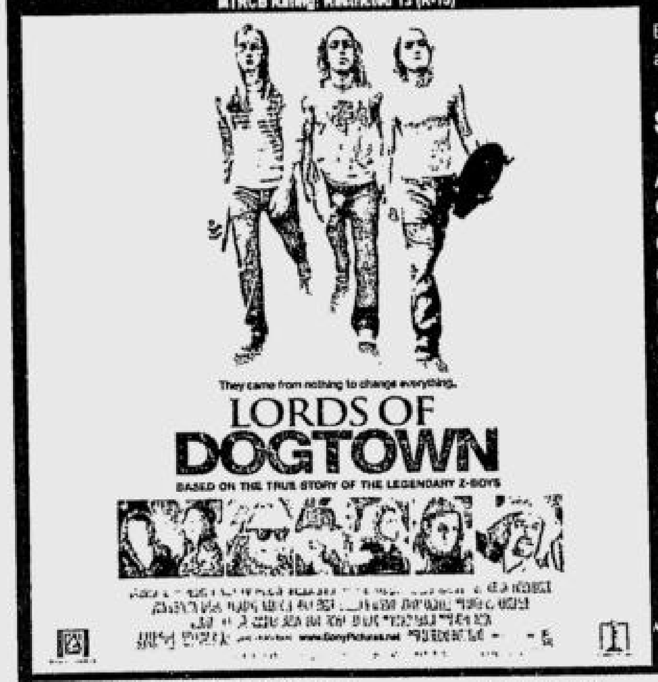
THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 CINDERELLA MAN	4 THE CAVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CINDERELLA MAN	2 SKY HIGH	3 THX THE CAVE 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	5 SKELETON KEY	6 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	7 THE LONGEST YARD
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA ADVANCE SCREENING For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE CAVE 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CINDERELLA MAN 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LONGEST YARD 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SKY HIGH 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE CAVE	2 SKY HIGH		
	3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	4 CINDERELLA MAN	5 THE LONGEST YARD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE CAVE	2 MUST LOVE DOGS	3 WEDDING CRASHERS	4 YEAR OF THE YAO

OPENS TOMORROW EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)


They came from nothing to change everything.
LORDS OF DOGTOWN
BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF THE LEGENDARY Z-BOYS
www.SonyPictures.net

ADVANCE SCREENING

Be among the first to watch at regular admission prices

Sept. 5 & 6

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 3
MARKET! MARKET!

MTRCB Rating Parental Guidance 13
Regular run begins September 14 at Ayala Cinemas

For screening schedule, call 729-7777

Russell Crowe
Renée Zellweger
Cinderella Man

Russell Crowe Renee Zellweger
Cinderella Man
Based on the extraordinary true story

AYALA CINEMAS

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

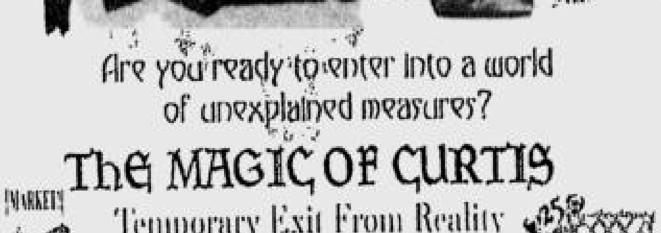
MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

① The Dukes of Hazzard
② The Longest Yard
③ Valiant
④ Sky High
⑤ The Cave

EVENTS! EVENTS!



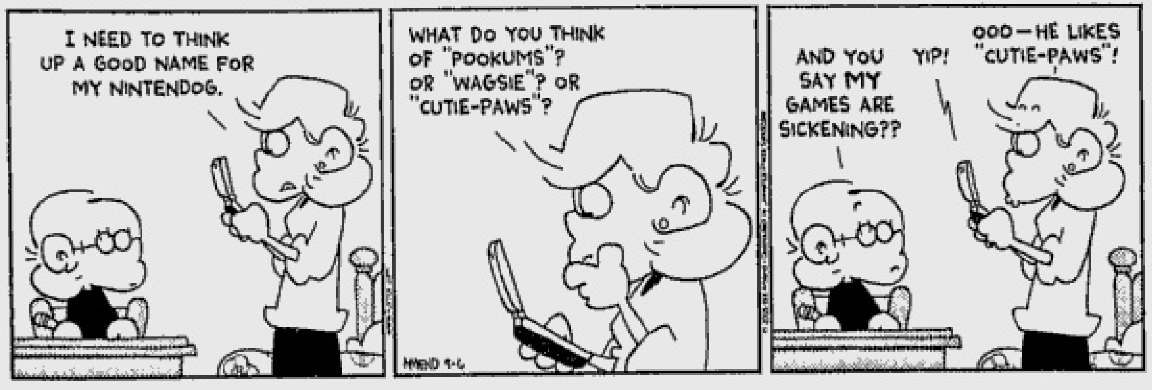
Are you ready to enter into a world of unexplained measures?

THE MAGIC OF CURTIS
Temporary Exit From Reality
Sept. 15 and 16, 6pm
Market! Market! Activity Center

- Present receipts worth P300 to the customer service booth to get a guaranteed seat and be mystified by the magic of Curtis!
- Want to meet Curtis? Present P500 worth of receipts or buy 2 movie tickets and present at the customer service booth and be one of the lucky 100 customers to meet and greet Curtis in person!
- Marvel at the grand fireworks display after the show on Sept. 16, in front of the Playzone area!

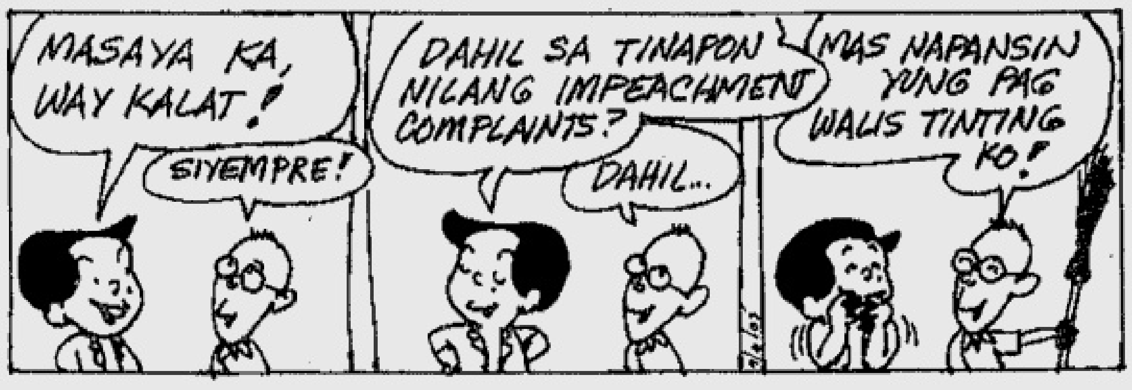
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I NEED TO THINK UP A GOOD NAME FOR MY NINTENDOG.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF "POOKUMS"? OR "WAGSIE"? OR "CUTIE-PAWS"?
AND YOU SAY MY GAMES ARE SICKENING??
YIP!
OOO—HE LIKES "CUTIE-PAWS"!
AMEND 9-6

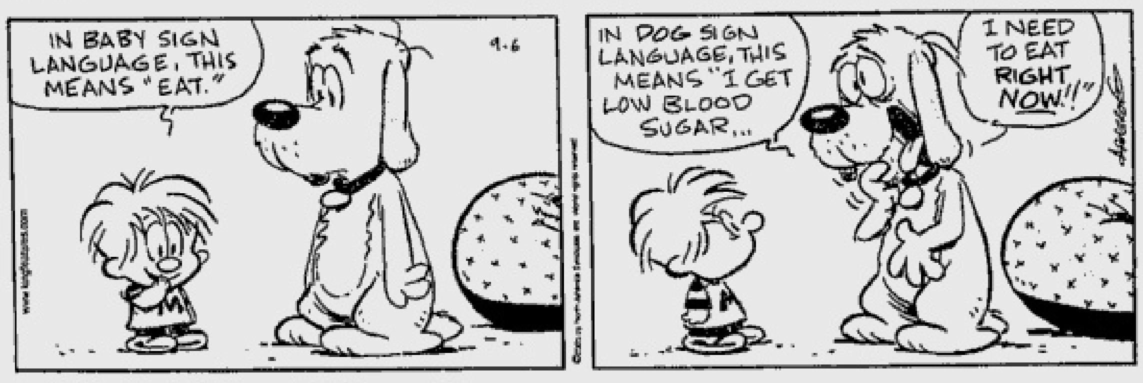
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MASAYA KA, WAY KALAT!
SIYEMPRE!
DAHIL SA TINAPON NILANG IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINTS?
DAHIL...
MAS NAPANSIN YUNG PAG WALIS TINTING KO!

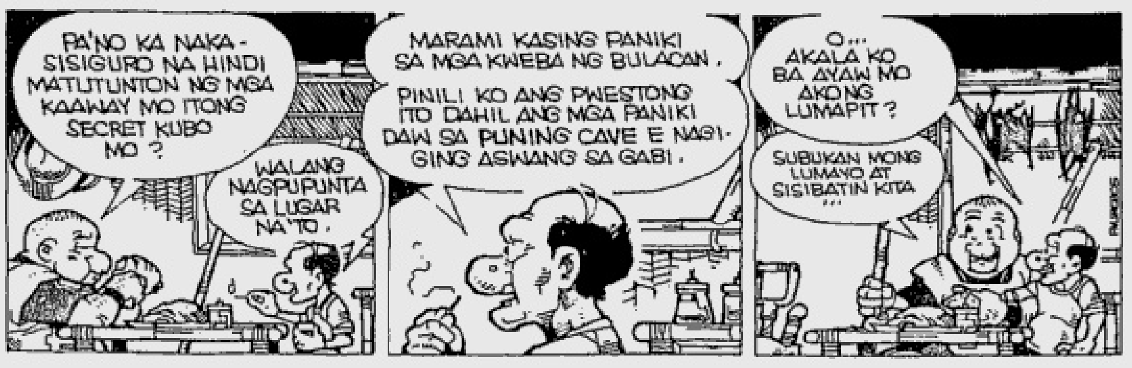
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IN BABY SIGN LANGUAGE, THIS MEANS "EAT."
9-6
IN DOG SIGN LANGUAGE, THIS MEANS "I GET LOW BLOOD SUGAR...
I NEED TO EAT RIGHT NOW!!"

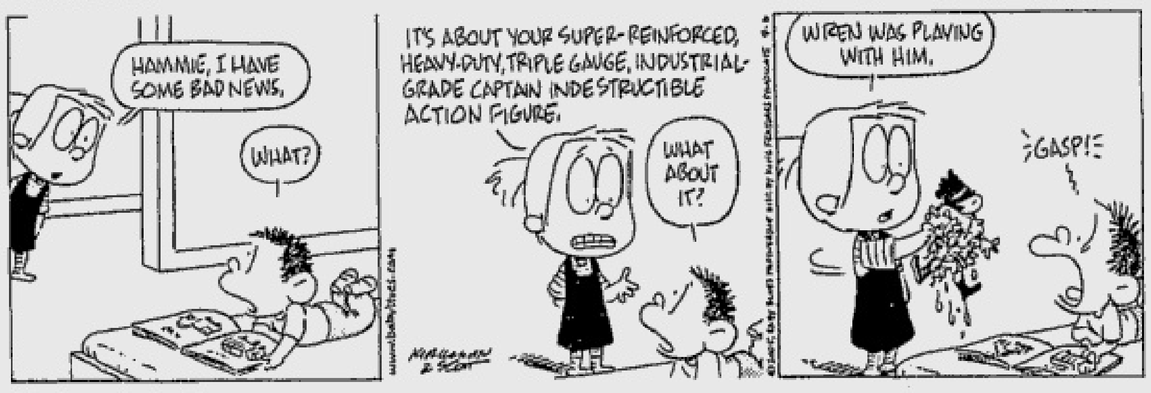
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PA'NO KA NAKASISIGURO NA HINDI MATUTUNTON NG MGA KAAWAY MO ITONG SECRET KUBO MO?
WALANG NAGPUPUNTA SA LUGAR NA'TO.
MARAMI KASING PANIKI SA MGA KWEBA NG BULACAN.
PINILI KO ANG PWESTONG ITO DAHIL ANG MGA PANIKI DAW SA PUNING CAVE E NAGIGING ASWANG SA GABI.
O... AKALA KO BA AYAW MO AKONG LUMAPIT?
SUBUKAN MONG LUMAYO AT SISIBATIN KITA ...

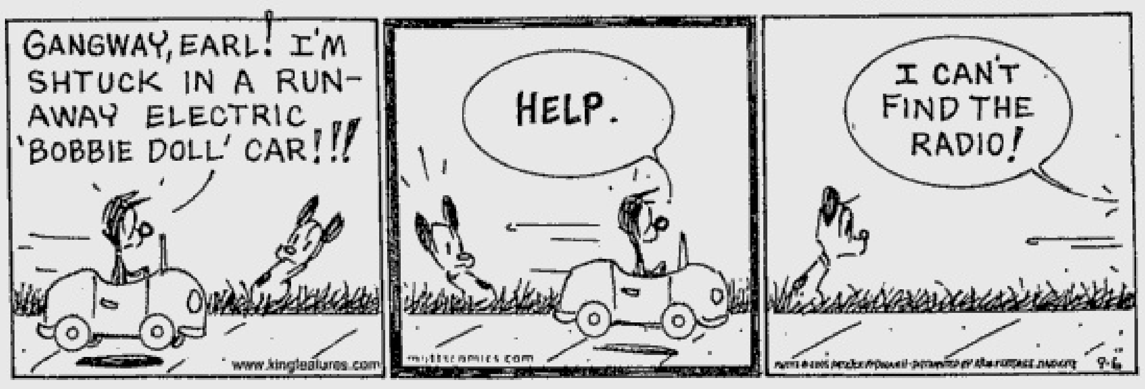
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS.
WHAT?
IT'S ABOUT YOUR SUPER-REINFORCED, HEAVY-DUTY, TRIPLE GAUGE, INDUSTRIAL-GRADE CAPTAIN INDESTRUCTIBLE ACTION FIGURE.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
WREN WAS PLAYING WITH HIM.
GASP!

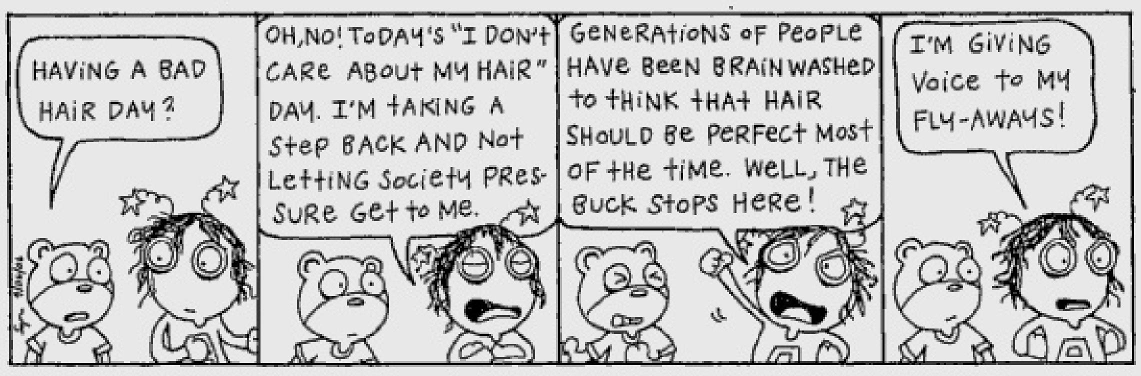
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GANGWAY, EARL! I'M SHTUCK IN A RUN-AWAY ELECTRIC 'BOBBIE DOLL' CAR!!!
HELP.
I CAN'T FIND THE RADIO!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
9-6

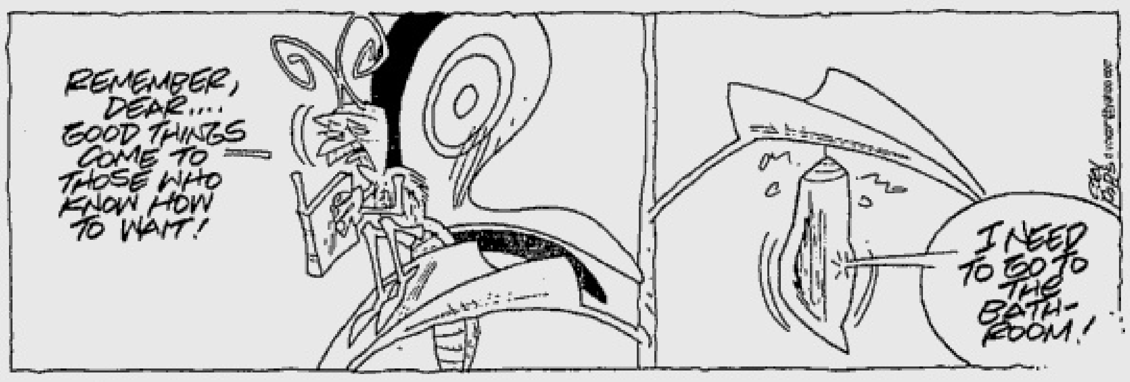
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY?
OH, NO! TODAY'S "I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY HAIR" DAY. I'M TAKING A STEP BACK AND NOT LETTING SOCIETY PRESSURE GET TO ME.
GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED TO THINK THAT HAIR SHOULD BE PERFECT MOST OF THE TIME. WELL, THE BUCK STOPS HERE!
I'M GIVING VOICE TO MY FLY-AWAYS!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


REMEMBER, DEAR.... GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO WAIT!
I NEED TO GO TO THE BATH-ROOM!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have good taste. You know how to enjoy the good life. You like attractive people, and in turn, you appear attractive to others. Quite often, your life becomes more colorful in later years. You enjoy a wide variety of friends. You are trustful and tolerant. Work hard this year to build and construct important things for yourself.

Birthdate of: Foxy Brown, singer; Rosie Perez, actress; Jane Curtin, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to talk to friends, partners and the general public. You feel positive, strong and optimistic. You are also unusually convincing!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a marvelous day at work. You have big ideas about how to do things, especially related to publishing, education and travel. The resources of others will help you now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What a lovely, flirtatious day! Do anything that pleases you. Your mission (should you choose to accept it) is to have a good time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for real estate deals or for buying anything for your home or a family member. It's also a great day to entertain family at home.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're thinking like a winner today! The planets easily promote the power of positive thinking for you. You feel confident, especially about travel, writing and communicating with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a great day for business and commerce. All financial negotiations, in addition to major purchases, will likely benefit you and be profitable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The Moon, Venus and Jupiter are all in your sign now. It doesn't get much better than this. (Actually, next month, when the Sun is there, that's great too!) Enjoy your day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will delight you today. You'll be very pleased to have a little time just for yourself. Try to arrange this if you can. (Even if it's only a short drive.)

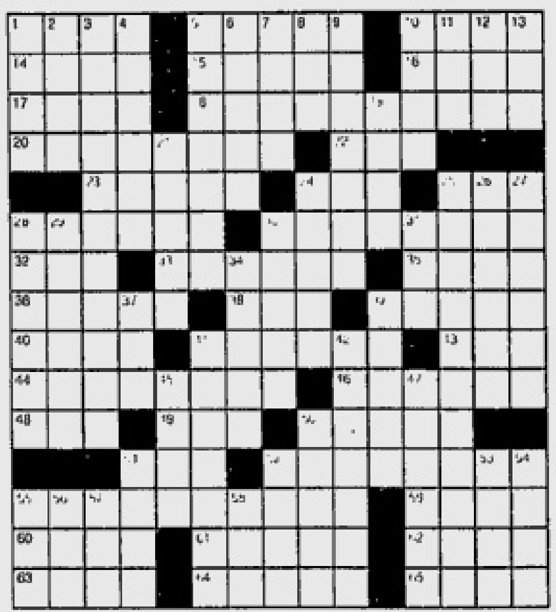
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with friends and groups will be pleasant today. In particular, a confidential chat with a female friend could be rewarding and very encouraging to you!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an easy day to make a great impression on important people. You don't even have to do anything special. You sound and look like you know it all (but in a good way).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is the perfect day to book a reservation to travel somewhere. It's also an excellent day to study and explore new ideas, unusual philosophies and different religions.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is an excellent day for important negotiations. Why? Because the universe owes you a favor today. Gifts, goodies and perks come to you now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

9/6/05

ACROSS
1 Hence
5 Self-proclaimed expert
10 Driver or wedge
14 Cartoonist Kelly
15 Corpulent
16 Seep slowly
17 Comic Johnson
18 Prince and the Revolution hit
20 Absence of anxiety
22 Health resort
23 Succulent plants
24 __ polloi
25 Network of "Nature"
28 Metal fasteners
30 "Camelot" character
32 Black cuckoo
33 Moral principles
35 Ill-mannered
36 Combination of tones
38 Antlered animal
39 First Lady of the '50s
40 Prell competitor
41 Transfusion substance
43 Angel dust, initially
44 Part of ELO
46 Debates
48 Rent out
49 Put a spell on
50 Like a legal pad
51 Leave quickly
52 Food drainer
55 Dutch landscape painter
59 Winter coat
60 Ukraine capital
61 Nero or Noone
62 Oklahoma city
63 Wheel shaft
64 Long lock
65 Lieut. s subordinates

DOWN
1 "__ brillig, and the slithy..."
2 Aesop loser
3 Kind of light
4 Addison's partner
5 Most sullen
6 Touches upon
7 Exceedingly
8 Psychic's gift
9 Ozzie and Harriet
10 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
11 Mauna __
12 Israeli weapon
13 Golfer Hogan
19 Big-budget film
21 Renowned
24 Taxicabs
25 Fruity dessert
26 Dress section
27 Leaves in hot water?
28 Mother of Joseph
29 Draw air
30 Spring bloomer
31 Period
34 Coiled structure
37 Mythical bird
39 Donald Trump s Maples
41 Prevent by anticipatory action
42 Ruffians
45 Slender
47 Artistic styles
50 Gads about
51 Lifted with effort
52 Downright adorable
53 Send forth
54 Crimsons
55 Wanted letters
56 Veto
57 Rolodex info
58 __ Lingus (Irish airline)

Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	Y	O	■	G	R	I	P	E	■	A	B	B	A
I	R	O	N	■	R	A	D	O	N	■	B	O	O	T
D	O	U	R	■	I	N	E	P	T	■	E	X	A	M
D	U	T	Y	O	N	I	M	P	O	R	T	S	■	■
A	S	H	E	R	■	■	■	A	M	A	■	C	A	W
Y	E	S	■	D	I	E	T	■	B	Y	G	O	N	E
■	■	■	B	E	R	L	I	N	■	■	E	R	O	S
R	I	V	E	R	E	M	B	A	N	K	M	E	N	T
O	V	A	L	■	■	S	E	R	I	E	S	■	■	■
S	E	C	T	O	R	■	T	Y	P	E	■	G	A	P
S	S	A	■	B	E	I	■	■	■	L	A	R	V	A
■	■	T	R	I	B	E	O	F	I	S	R	A	E	L
D	L	I	I	■	U	T	T	E	R	■	E	Z	R	A
R	O	O	F	■	F	R	I	S	K	■	N	E	S	T
J	U	N	E	■	F	A	C	T	S	■	A	D	E	E

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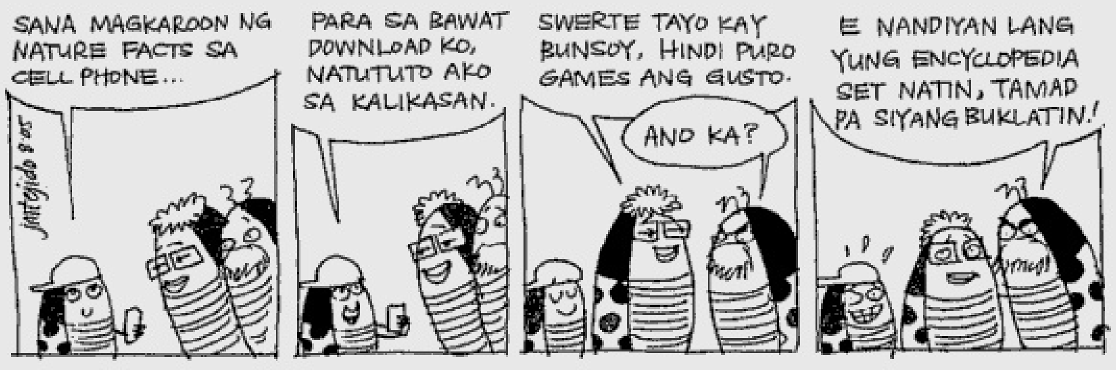
9/5/05

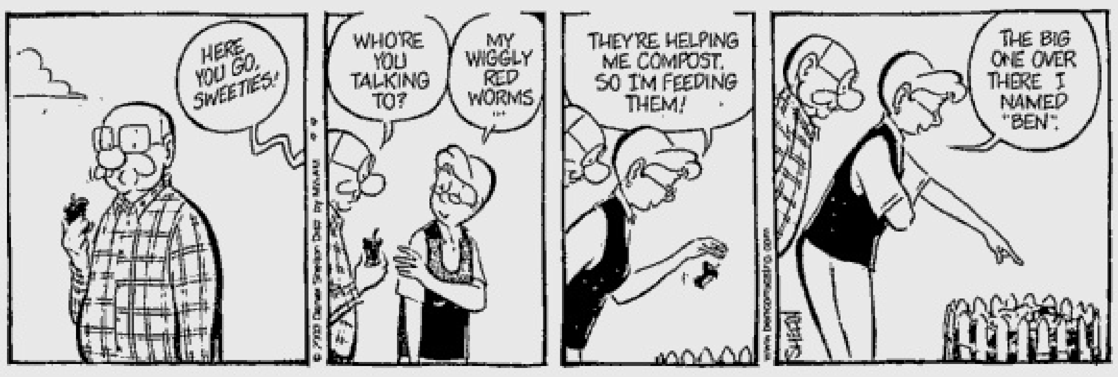
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SANA MAGKAROON NG NATURE FACTS SA CELL PHONE...
PARA SA BAWAT DOWNLOAD KO, NATUTUTO AKO SA KALIKASAN.
SWERTE TAYO KAY BUNSOY, HINDI PURO GAMES ANG GUSTO.
AND KA?
E NANDIYAN LANG YUNG ENCYCLOPEDIA SET NATIN, TAMAD PA SIYANG BUKLATIN!
jmtejido 8'05

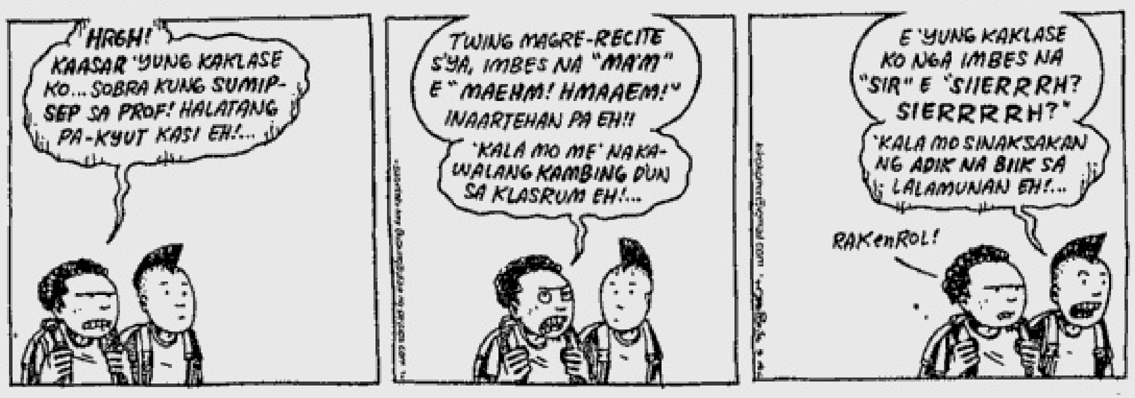
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE YOU GO, SWEETIES!
WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?
MY WIGGLY RED WORMS ...
THEY'RE HELPING ME COMPOST. SO I'M FEEDING THEM!
THE BIG ONE OVER THERE I NAMED "BEN".

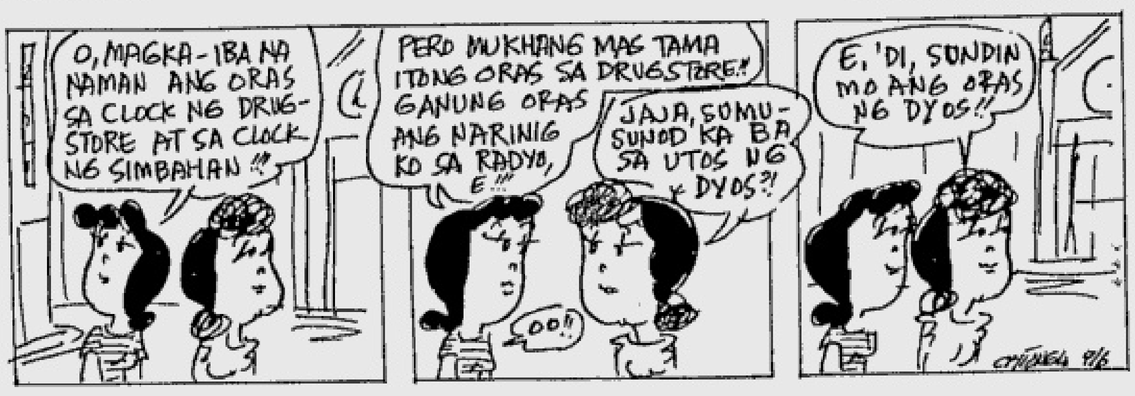
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


"HRGH!" KAASAR 'YUNG KAKLASE KO... SOBRA KUNG SUMIPSEP SA PROF! HALATANG PA-KYUT KASI EH!...
TWING MAGRE-RECITE S'YA, IMBES NA "MA'M" E "MAEHM! HMAAEM!" INAARTEHAN PA EH!!
'KALA MO ME' NAKAWALANG KAMBING DUN SA KLASRUM EH!...
E 'YUNG KAKLASE KO NGA IMBES NA "SIR" E "SIIERRRH? SIERRRRH?"
'KALA MO SINAKSAKAN NG ADIK NA BIIK SA LALAMUNAN EH!...
RAKenROL!

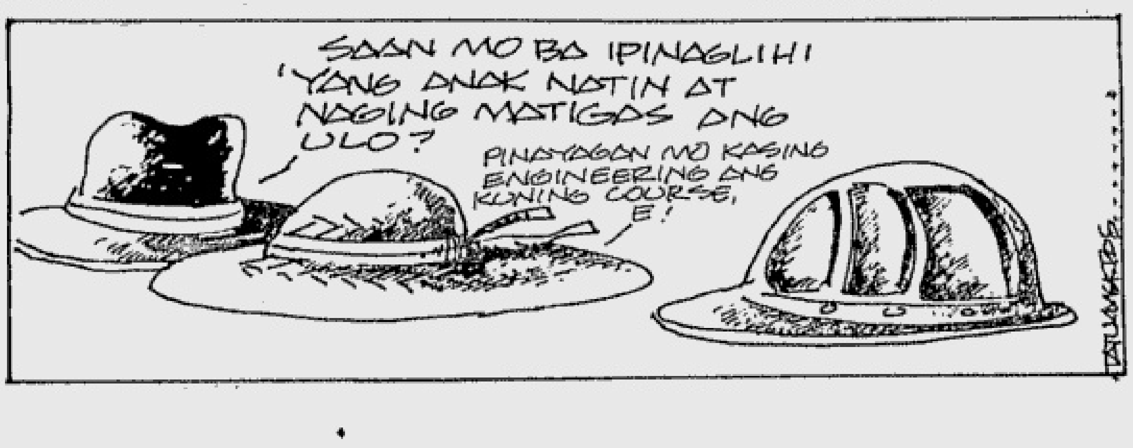
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


O, MAGKA-IBA NA NAMAN ANG ORAS SA CLOCK NG DRUGSTORE AT SA CLOCK NG SIMBAHAN!!!
PERO MUKHANG MAS TAMA ITONG ORAS SA DRUGSTORE! GANUNG ORAS ANG NARINIG KO SA RADYO, E!!!
JAJA, SOMUSUNOD KA BA SA UTOS NG DYOS?!
OO!!
E, 'DI, SUNDIN MO ANG ORAS NG DYOS!!
CHIONGLO 9/6

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SAAN MO BA IPINAGLIHI 'YANG ANAK NATIN AT NAGING MATIGAS ANG ULO?
PINAYAGAN MO KASING ENGINEERING ANG KUNING COURSE, E!

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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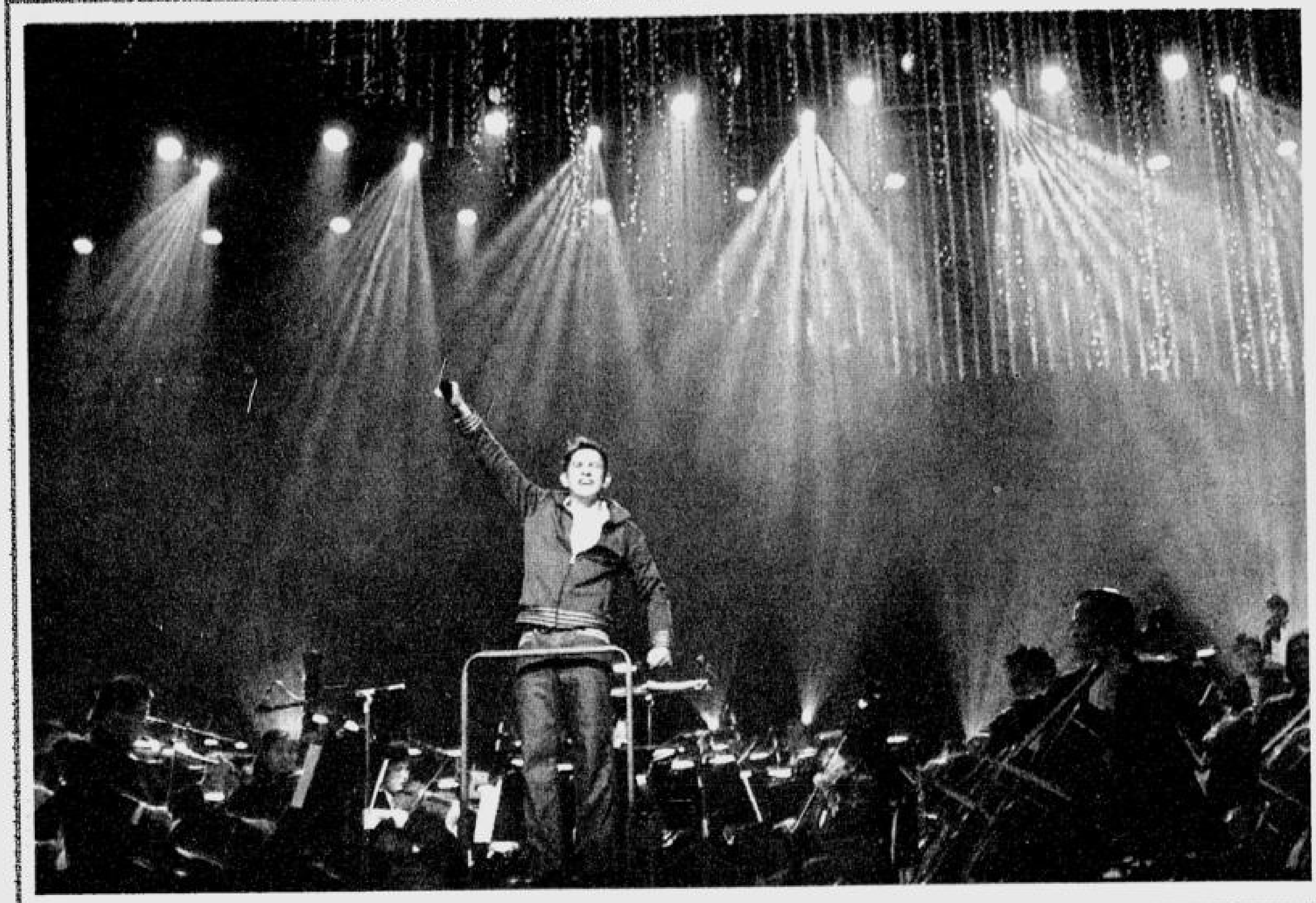


Orchestral maneuvers

REVIEW

GARY Valenciano was unafraid to max the audience's quota on good vibes and inspiration in his "Symphony of the Heart" concert on Friday.

"Mr. Pure Energy's" shindig with the 64-piece San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra was chock full of highlights—and not the kind that accent the pop icon's tresses.

Highest of the high points, for us, is Gary V's electrifying dance duet with son Gabriel to the tune of "Limang Dipang Tao," an original by Ryan Cayabyab, the evening's masterful conductor.

Father, son and conductor managed to give the much-covered pop classic a fresh spin. And twist, and pirouette.

Gary V has met his match.

Refreshingly candid was the singer's Pinoy rock showdown with eldest son Paolo—if only for the orchestral version of Bamboo's "Noypi."

The night's guests—Erik Santos and Sheryn Regis—were wise not to try to out-sing the seasoned star of the show. Credit largely goes to musical director Mon Faustino, for his delicate and delectable *areglos*.

Speaking of drama, Gary V's multilingual version of Freddie Aguilar's "Anak" was a hoot—now in Japanese, and then Spanish... He stopped short of sign language and, thank heavens, drew the line on "swardspeak."

After two hours, the dilemma, it would seem, was how to cap a showstopper-studded evening.

That was easy, too! The Songbird flew over from GMA 7. Regine Velasquez was thoroughly unruffled, surrounded though she was by ABS-CBN stars and execs.

By the time Gary V made his final bow, even the not-so-casual plugs had been forgiven—simply because of how the man shared his music. As much as a revelry, "Symphony of the Heart" was a true exercise in soothing the savage beast.

Like a "Seven Habits" workshop. *Inquirer Entertainment Staff*

ROUNDUP

Britney Spears, Vegas showgirl?

THE PREGNANT pop princess is currently in talks to star in her own Vegas show, like Celine Dion and Elton John, after she has given birth to her baby. Dealmaker Jack Wishna revealed: "I met with Britney, her manager and her lawyers, and we are working on a deal to bring her to the Strip in 2007-2008." Wishna refused to reveal the name of the casino that wants to sign Britney, but admits it is one of the "major" gambling houses. *Bang Showbiz*

On Naomi Watts' first time

NAOMI Watts was left in tears after filming her first ever on-screen sex scene. The stunning actress—who is currently shooting the remake of classic monster movie 'King Kong—says she still feels "humiliated" over her racy antics in "Mulholland Drive." In one scene of the critically acclaimed movie, Naomi, 36, is seen writhing around in ecstasy. The blonde beauty claims controversial director David Lynch pushed her further than she wanted to go in the scene, leaving her an emotional wreck. *Bang Showbiz*

For hurricane victims

GREEN Day, Alicia Keys and Usher have joined forces with a galaxy of stars to perform at a fundraising show for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The stars will be joined by rap star Ludacris, singer John Mellencamp and Linkin Park rocker Chester Bennington at the MTV charity concerts, which will take place in New York, Los Angeles and Nashville on Sept. 10. *Bang Showbiz*

'Living hell' for Marcia

"DESPERATE Housewives" star Marcia Cross says trying to stay thin is a "living hell." The flame-haired beauty feels huge pressure to stay slim and feels like she has been banned from eating since signing up to the hit show. She said: "It's like they pay me not to eat. I have often felt there was a lot of pressure on me to look good." *Bang Showbiz*

Lost and found: Susan Henson

By Nini Valera

FACED with desperation, '70s sexy actress Susan Henson almost lost hope and her sanity.

For 10 years, Susan, now 47, drifted from a big house to a *barong-barong* along the river in Las Piñas City.

"I could not pay the rent," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview last Saturday. "I had no money for food. I would eat in my landlady's *bicho-bicho* stand."

She has since left the house and a P2,300 debt. "I can't even get my things from the landlady," she said.

Before the *barong-barong*, Susan rented a condominium unit in Parañaque City. Monthly struggle with the rent drove her to the streets. "I owe about P13,000 in the condo rent," she admitted. "I can't get my bed, air-conditioner and other stuff from there till I pay up."

Susan told her tale of hard luck in rambling sentences. "I don't want to deal with the past," she said. "With God's help, I survived."

Not too long ago, Susan was a favorite screen partner of action stars like Jun Aristorenas. She made about 20 movies and was wooed by powerful men. Christopher de Leon was one of her suitors, Susan claimed, "before Sandy (Andolong), of course."

In the mid '80s, her show biz career took a back seat to running a disco, EZDZ in Malate, Manila, then a popular hangout of stars like Richard Gomez, who was dating Melissa Perez-Rubio at the time. "I remember even (vice president) Noli de Castro went there," said Susan.

Those were heady times —she was in a relationship with the disco owner. "When we separated, I put up a dress shop," she said. She went into another relationship, "but I left that one, too."

She lived in her hometown in Negros for a spell, earning a living by selling insurance. "I won an award for being tops in sales," she said.

Then came the dark days, spent in four drug rehabilitation centers. "I was never hooked on drugs," she claimed. "My family just ganged up on me and sent me to rehab. I wished they had just given me money to start a business."

SUSAN Henson: "I can dream, can't I?" Inset, the '70s pretty woman

When it felt like there was nothing else for her, Susan found God. "Now I know and understand His ways," she said. She has joined a Catholic charismatic ministry called God's Love, based in Mount Carmel Church in Quezon City.

To attend the weekly meetings, Susan used to borrow money for transport fare. "I would ask a friend," she recounted. "Never mind if she cursed me, at least she gave me the money."

Dress designer Eddie Baddeo, one of the group's members, befriended Susan.

"She said she wanted to go back to show biz," Eddie told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I hooked her up with a talent manager."

Last Sunday, Susan did her first interview on "The Buzz," reuniting with friend Boy Abunda, who once helped her promote EZDZ.

"No one should ever give up hope," she told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I'm young enough to still dream. I think I can be a star again."

Why girls and gays are glued to 'Darna'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IF GUYS drool over **Angel Locsin** in her fiery red costume, girls and gays are glued to "Darna" because of **Dennis Trillo**. His Best Actor's charms grow on you.

I cornered Dennis about the ongoing "rift" between his co-stars in the series—Angel Locsin and **Nadine Samonte**. In the *telefantasya*, he portrays Efren, who is torn between Narda (Angel) and Ava (Nadine). But the tension is intensified off-cam since the girls are not that cordial with each other. Doesn't he feel awkward?

He explained: "It does not affect me, as long as I stay focused. Sometimes it makes the scenes more effective. Their emotions come out more natural."

Has Angel or Nadine asked him for advice regarding the feud? "Sometimes Angel does, but I remain neutral. They both have a good heart." Wasn't Angel's heart almost his before? Who knows? Maybe they will end up together—and I'm not referring to the *telefantasya*. Dennis said, smiling, "Why Not?"

Isn't reality the best fantasy of all?

Wherefore, Panday?

SPEAKING of *telefantasya*, viewers are wondering when ABS-CBN's "Panday" will finally be shown. Several episodes have been canned and still there's no definite airing date. But lead stars **Jericho Rosales** and **Heart Evangelista** are seen everywhere together. I asked **Kai Palomares**, the mom of **Santino**, Echo's lovechild, how she felt about it.

The ever gracious Kai said, "Echo and I do not confide in each other about our love lives. We discuss only matters that involve our son. I am not in a position to comment on him being linked to Heart since I do not know about it. Whatever it may be, I am always happy for Echo. He is a great dad to Santino. no matter what the situation is."

What if one of the girls involved with Echo tries to mess things up for Santino? Kai sighed. "I know Echo. He will never fall for someone who will come between him and our son." Would that all show biz ex-lovers, with or without love children, were like Echo and Kai!

LT's lament

I asked my gorgeous "Kumare" **Lorna Tolentino** if reports were true that she's not too happy with what happened to her sons **Ralph** and **Renz** in "Extra Challenge's P2-M Luzon Visayas Mindanao Anniversary Race."

She lamented: "I'm not mad at 'Extra Challenge.' I was a challenger before so I understand how the show goes. As a mother *lang*, I'm quite disappointed 'cause they said the second prize would be a car but their sponsor backed out last minute. *Naawa lang ako sa mga anak ko. Bugbog sila masyado sa* challenges. *Parang hindi* worth it *sa hirap nila*. They had to skip school *pa*."

I totally get LT's drift. My son, IC, was also in the "EC P2-M race." If it's any consolation, the friendship that blossomed among IC, Ralph, Renz and the other challengers is worth more than all the grand prizes.

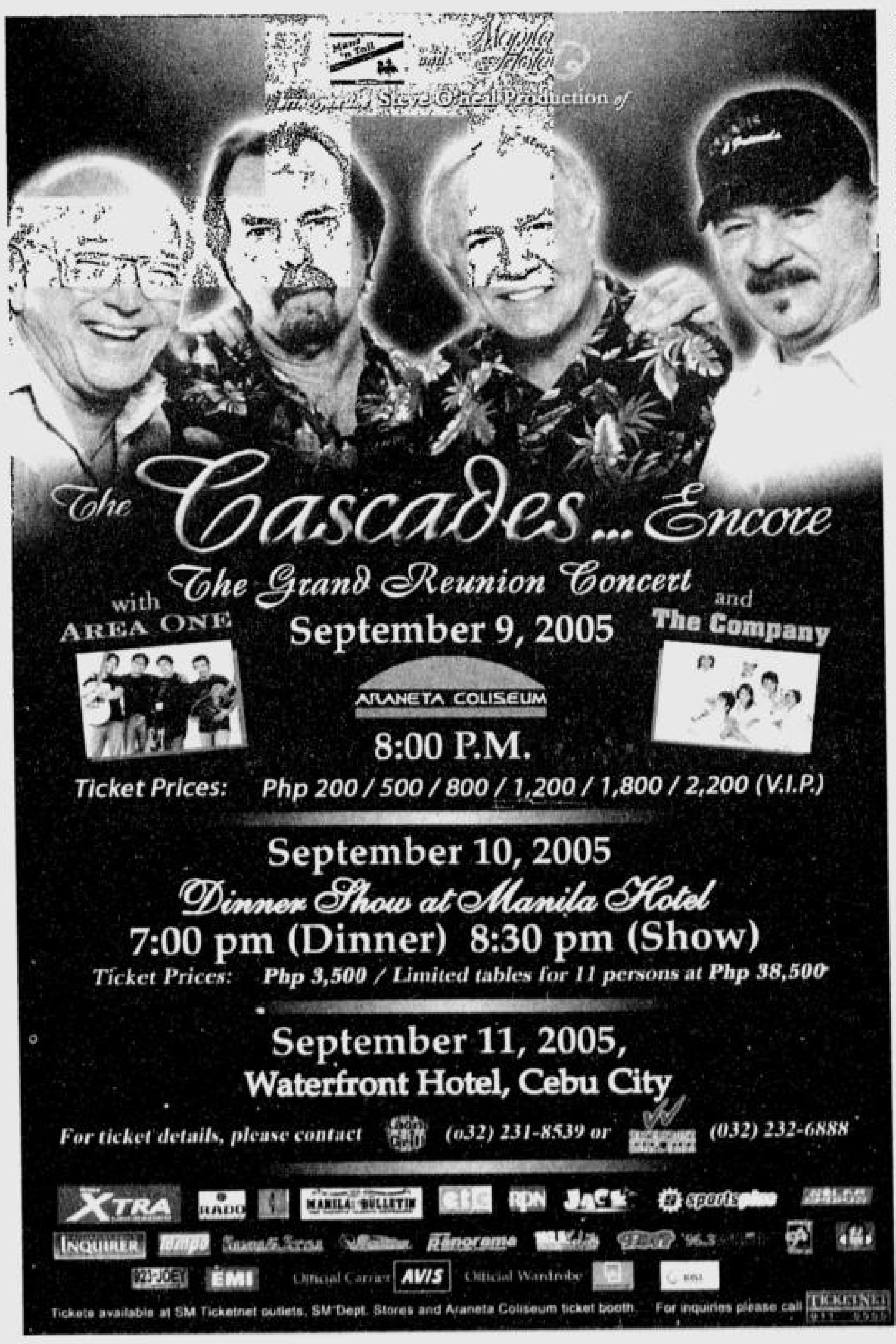
Bits and pieces

JOLINA Magdangal has been pinch-hitting for **Pia Guanio** in "24 Oras'" "Chika Minute" segment. Prior to the newscast, **Mel Tiangco** requested Jolens not to call her "Tita" or **Mike Enriquez** "Tito," since it's a serious news program. But the ever giggly Jolens couldn't help it. "*Di ko kaya* not to call you Tita. Viewers might think I'm being disrespectful." Ain't Jolens too cute not to be forgiven?

Next-level rivalry

Stories have been circulating that **Gary Valenciano's** son, **Gabe**, and **Martin Nievera's** son, **Robin**, are both pursuing Coca-Cola Girl **Nikki Gil**. Nikki clarifies: "Yup, Gabs is courting me, but Robin is a longtime friend." Interesting twist! Will Robin give Gabe tips on how to win Nikki's heart? I'm sure the "Concert King" and "Mr. Pure Energy" are both amused, watching their *hijos*.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)



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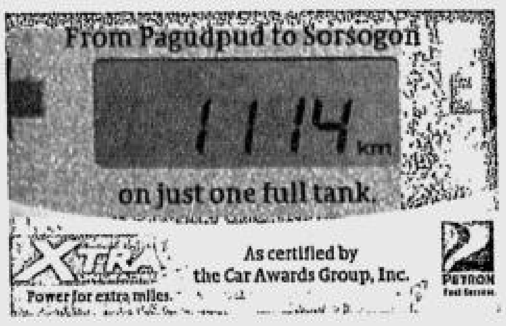
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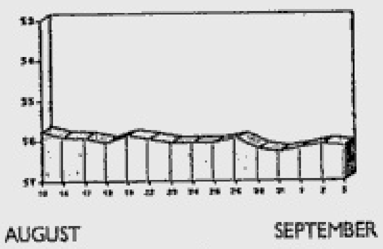

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on political concerns

SHARE prices closed 0.89 percent lower yesterday as investors marked time ahead of a congressional vote on ending impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo, dealers said.

They said the upcoming vote and a planned protest march against Ms Arroyo today led by former president Corazon Aquino kept the issue of political stability to the fore.

Concerns over the impact of higher oil prices on economic growth and delays in the collection of a new expanded value-added tax (VAT) law also weighed on sentiment.

The composite index lost 17.36 points to 1,929.02, off a low of 1,920.38. Turnover reached 632.1 million shares worth P1.48 billion.

The broader all-shares index retreated 8.20 points to 1,173.36.

Losers led gainers 47 to 21, with 42 stocks unchanged.

The market closed shortly before the House of Representatives began discussion on a committee ruling last week that threw out all three outstanding impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, who had been accused of election fraud. *AFP*

But 6.3-7.3% goal for '06 too optimistic

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IS KEEPING the 2005 economic growth target unchanged at 5.3 percent despite surging oil prices and rising US interest rates, which it admitted would push inflation and curb both global and domestic demand.

But the economy is likely to grow by less than 6.3 percent next year, raising the possibility of the government lowering the target for 2006.

"The 6.3-7.3 percent growth target next year may be too optimistic," said Augusto Santos, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

He said the 2006 GDP growth target assumed that oil prices would average at only $48.90 a barrel next year. But latest forecasts showed that Dubai crude would likely to be at least $50 a barrel this year and higher in 2006.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee is set to meet within the month to discuss possible revisions to the country's economic assumptions. The DBCC, composed of the Neda and the departments of finance and of trade and industry, is an inter-agency body tasked to set the government's economic policies and targets.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 4.7 percent in the first half, which means the economy will need to grow by nearly 6 percent for the rest of the year to achieve the target for 2005.

Santos said the economy should manage to grow by 5.9 percent in the second half of the year.

This rests on agriculture growing by 5.1 percent, after a dismal 0.7-percent expansion in the first half amid a drought, with industry and services keeping their first half pace. Santos said agriculture production normally posts a higher growth in the second half than in the first.

"Despite the challenges, the economy is expected to grow as targeted, buoyed by investments in sunrise industries and the recovery of agriculture," Santos said, citing renewed activity in the mining sector.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the government has approved 23 new mining projects.

"The policy agenda will focus on implementing structural reforms that will increase competi-

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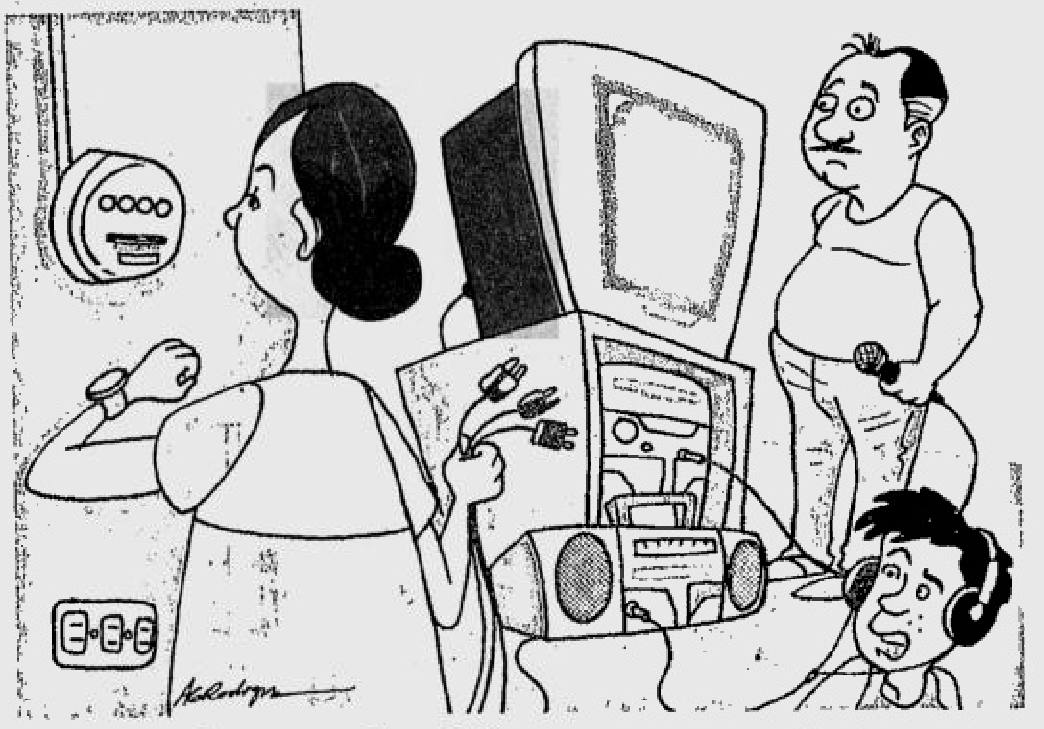

In RP households, song and dance take its toll on power consumption

By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINOS had always had a love affair with singing, dancing and showbiz. Results of a recent government survey proved this as the average amount of electricity used for stereos and television sets was even higher than that used for lighting.

According to the 2004 Household Energy Consumption Survey (HECS) by the Department of Energy and the National Statistics Office, a household consumes an average of 243 kilowatt-hours (kWh) for stereos and 302 kWh for TV sets in a year. Households that have karaoke systems use an even higher 399 kWh a year for such appliances.

The average annual consumption for fluorescent lighting, however, is placed at a mere 132 kWh, less than half the electricity used to power TV sets and karaoke systems in a year.

Despite the lower consumption number, lighting remains the top reason for using electricity for 13.4 million of the 14.6 million Filipino households currently having access to electricity.

Recreation—including listening to stereos, watching TV and belting out songs on a karaoke machine-is the second major reason for electricity use in the country at 12.4 million households or 85.4 percent of all households.

Taking this into consideration, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla urged households to strictly monitor the use of electricity for recreational purposes.

"This is not to say that electricity should not be used for watching TV or singing, which Filipinos are very fond of. But if a consumer has knowledge on where and how electricity is spent in a household, in this case based on the survey that recreation is the second major use of electricity, he or she will know in what areas to introduce a more responsible use of electricity," he said in a statement.

He suggested that households introduce "family viewing times" within the day to help reduce electricity consumption in the home.

Other reasons for using electricity include space cooling at 66.6 percent, ironing at 51.3 percent, refrigeration at 40 percent and laundry at 27 percent.

For space cooling, the electric fan is still the main appliance used by Filipino households, with an average consumption of 296 kWh a year.

Only 8.8 percent said they used air-conditioners, which consumed 12 times as much electricity as electric fans at about 3,914 kWh.

Bids for 91-day T-bills rejected

FOR the second consecutive auction, the government rejected all bids for the 91-day treasury bills yesterday, citing "absurdly" high yields sought by the market.

Had the Bureau of Treasury's auction committee accepted the bids, the bellwether 91-day rate could have risen to 6.108 percent or 44.6 basis points higher than the level two weeks ago.

"The market is perturbed by all developments other than liquidity," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz.

He agreed that lingering concerns on the political front could partly be blamed for the market's behavior. He said banks were still awash with cash.

While the chances that impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo have dimmed, calls for her ouster through street protests remained.

The 182- and 364-day treasury bill rates rose by 16.2 basis points and 13.2 basis points, respectively, to 7.759 percent and 8.827 percent.

Michelle V. Remo

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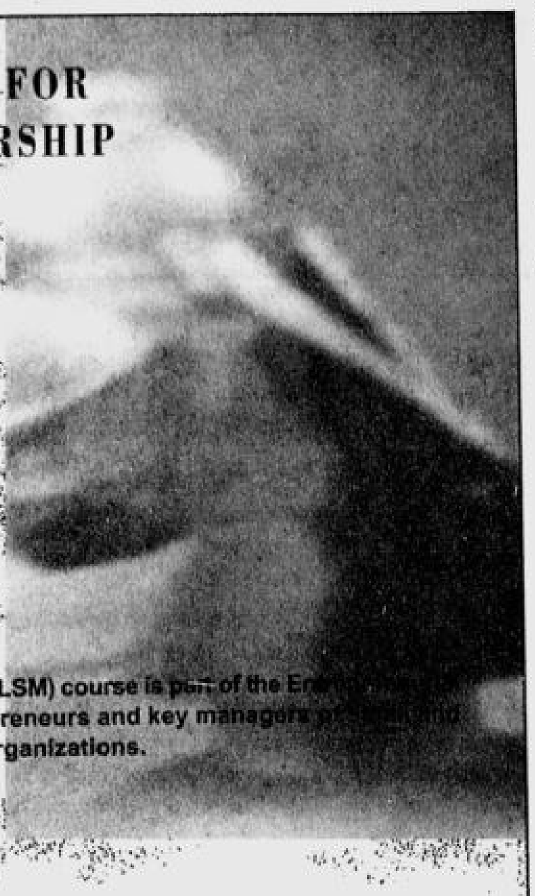

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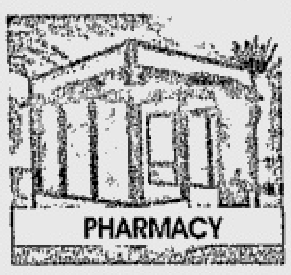
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Caught in the hack

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHO SAID that, in business, errors are costly, even enough for you to lose your job, if the boss do not actually plonk you first into the shredding machine?

Due to some "clerical errors," a company called Southern Cross Cement Corp. was able to hack its tax payments by several million pesos.

Is Southern Cross going to get away with its "clerical errors," which I imagine it claims to be unintentional?

Well, it all depends on the Bureau of Customs. You see, Southern Cross made the "clerical errors" in its import documents.

It stands to reason that the BOC should act quickly, and preferably judiciously, on the case.

After all, the reported hacking of taxes and duties by Southern Cross amounted to only about P24 million.

On the other hand, that amount is nothing to this impeachment-busy cute administration of Gloriaetta.

The Palace is already giving away hundreds of millions of pesos worth of "pork"—the legislative kind.

I mean, foregoing P24 million in tax payments should be peanuts, particularly since this cute administration is staring at a widening budget deficit.

Its finances are in disarray, actually, because of the drop in the revenue collection of the BOC, thanks mainly to bad times in business.

* * *

IN its import documents, Southern Cross said that it had no relationship with the sellers of the cement from Japan, namely, Taiheiyo Cement and Tokuyama Cement.

It needed such distance from the Japanese cement companies for the so-called transaction value to apply on Southern Cross's importation.

Some years ago, we adopted the "transaction value" as a simple way to compute import duties and taxes, and possibly to lessen corruption at the customs bureau.

Under the simplified system, the BOC uses the actual amount of the import, as stated on the invoice, for instance, instead of the price of the goods in the country.

But as safeguard against abuses, the BOC imposes certain conditions. One of them is that the importer must have no relationship with the seller abroad.

It is one way to avoid connivance between the importer and the seller abroad, similar to the practice of certain multinationals known as "transfer pricing."

For all you know, they may just reduce the value of the shipment to cheat the government of tax and duty payments.

Thus, the customs bureau says no relationship whatsoever. You cannot use "transaction value," if your wife is sending you a shipload of fake "Gucci" underwear.

* * *

PRECISELY, in its import documents, Southern Cross claimed such a detachment from the sellers in Japan. Oh yeah, since when?

Ladies and gentlemen, I have before me right now, photocopies of SEC records giving some "general facts" about the company called Southern Cross.

The documents indicate that, in its import documents, Southern Cross basically lied.

The main owners of the company, according to the SEC documents, are those same sellers in Japan, namely, Taiheiyo Cement and Tokuyama Cement.

The SEC documents also showed that the two Japanese companies were the owners of Southern Cross as of June 2004.

And my sources in the SEC said that the documents were the latest report submitted by the company after its annual stockholders, as required by the SEC.

If the customs bureau accepts the latest SEC documents as accurate, it is clear that Southern Cross did something terribly wrong.

In effect, the company lied to the bureau, and the company lied to slash its tax and duty payments.

Yet, all BOC documents contain clear warnings against any MIS-declaration of just about anything, including what you had for breakfast or something.

In other words, what Southern Cross did was outright cheating. It was, still is, and always will be a criminal offense.

In some countries in Asia, foreign-owned firms like Southern Cross would have been barred from doing business already. No further question.

* * *

STILL, to my mind, the company's most brilliant award-winning alibi, which is known down here in my barangay simply as "palusot," had something to do with "clerical error."

News reports said that Southern Cross declared a freight rate of $1.60 per metric ton in its shipment of cement from its—and let's just call a spade a spade, okay—PARENT companies in Japan.

Can you believe that—$1.60 per metric ton?

The freight rate forms part of the computation of the transaction value, which means that the lower the rate, the less should be the duties and taxes on the shipment.

Now, thanks to the phenomenal rise in the price of oil, all kinds of transport costs have gone up a few meters above the stratosphere.

It seems that Southern Cross miraculously escaped such price increases. In 2001, the same Southern Cross declared a freight rate of more than $14 per ton. Only four years later, it was able to cut the rate to $1.60 per ton. Wonderful!

To explain the glaring disparity, one so-called "manager" of Southern Cross claimed that it was due to ... well, "clerical error."

I see.

Is it the same as "typo error" or is it slightly better? At least, if you believe the Southern Cross explanation, it consistently committed the clerical error.

You see, it made the same, er, clerical error in the freight rates, insurance and FOB values of its shipment from Japan. What a clerk!

The clerical error helped the company in reducing its tax and duty payments to the tune of P24 million.

Where is that clerk? Let's hire him for the sole purpose of making clerical errors so that we can also reduce our tax payments which, by the way, are deducted automatically by the government from our pay even before we get it.

It's the "palusot" of the Palace in the "hello Garci" tapes. Yes, true, it was the voice of Gloriaetta, but she was not the one talking. You know—yes, I smoked pot but I did not inhale.

Nice try!

* * *

ALL told, the "transaction value" that Southern Cross claimed for its cement importation from its parent firms in Japan was at $24 to $38 per ton.

That is much, much lower than the local price of cement, which is estimated at $65 per ton.

Moreover, its claimed "transaction value" pales in comparison to the price of cement in Japan, which is $80 per ton.

In other places and at other times, that would have been easily called "dumping."

* * *

AND here is the cherry on top of the Southern Cross imported ice cream: The company simply "withdrew" 46,000 tons of cement from its silo without authorization from the customs bureau.

Down here in my barangay, the term "withdraw," in this case is just a sanitized way of saying "outright smuggling."

Aside from the severe penalty for "misdeclaration," the country's customs law imposes a stiff penalty for outright smuggling, which is classified as a crime of economic sabotage, which in turn, can earn you not only imprisonment but the capital punishment.

Now among the incorporators of Southern Cross were Japanese nationals. It's just that nobody knows if they will face the music in this case.

Most likely, the Filipino employees of the company will take the fall. What else is new? We cannot jail Japanese nationals here, for the simple reason that they never hesitate to jail Filipinos in Japan.

After all, in return for the small favor of closing our eyes to the "clerical errors" committed by Southern Cross, we can expect the company to continue employing a total number of 10 people.

I am not kidding. Based on SEC records, that is the number of employees of Southern Cross. It has a total workforce of 10 people, four of whom maintain the title of "manager."

I wonder what the six others are. Maybe error-prone clerks?

Pasar copper output up 5.4%

BY Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S only copper smelting and refining firm yesterday reported a 5.4-percent increase in the production of refined copper in the first seven months amid an expansion program provided under a P2.86-billion capital infusion by its Swiss stakeholder.

The Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. said improvements in efficiency drove up output of refined copper or cathodes to 103,869 metric tons from about 98,580 MT in the same period last year.

At the same time, output of anodes or unrefined copper went up by 2.7 percent to 122,051 MT from about 118,900 MT.

"We are confident that we will be able to achieve our production forecasts for the year as we continue to improve efficiency and implement de-bottlenecking," said Bruce Anderson, Pasar president.

The firm aims to improve production of refined copper by 3.6 percent to 182,500 MT for the whole year. It also wants to anode production by 2.2 percent to 221,935 MT.

Used in the manufacture of electronic products, the copper cathodes produced in Pasar's facilities in Isabel, Leyte, are among the top ten export products of the country.

Pasar is majority-owned by a consortium comprised of Swiss metals firm Glencore International AG and local investors, who acquired 90 percent of the government's shareholdings and all its receivables in the company through a competitive bidding in 1999.

Glencore earlier announced it was investing an additional $53 million or about P2.86 billion into PASAR for the expansion of its copper smelter and refining plants.

The expansion program covers an increase in the capacity of the smelter to produce 720,000 MT of copper concentrates each year from the current 600,000 MT.

Also, the program entails an increase in the installed capacity of the refinery to produce 215,000 metric tons per year of cathodes from the current 172,500 mtpy.

Pasar said its expansion project would improve the performance of the plants as well as allow greater protection for the environment.

CAP petition opposed

A GROUP OF 19 PLAN holders that earlier filed a class suit against pre-need giant College Assurance Plan Philippines (CAP) is urging the Makati Regional Trial Court to appoint a management committee or receiver to take over the troubled company.

They also urged the court to consider former Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) president Ernest Leung, former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) commissioner Monico Jacob and incumbent commissioner Joselia Poblador as possible receivers or to head the management committee.

These planholders claimed to represent the interest of all 780,000 plan holders of CAP.

In a motion filed yesterday with the Makati RTC Branch 61, Pascual-Lopez & Associates Law Offices acting on behalf of plaintiffs and plan holders led by Edna Valenzuela said CAP admitted the "impossibility of meeting its debts when they fall due" when it filed its petition for rehabilitation on Sept. 1.

Maricel Pascual-Lopez, lead counsel for these plan holders said this admission creates the basis for a management committee to be formed by the court immediately without need of further hearing. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

DOJ orders inventory of IPR cases

Boost to gov't anti-piracy campaign

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF Justice has ordered an inventory of pending cases and charges related to intellectual property rights violations in line with the government's stepped-up campaign against piracy.

Intellectual Property Office Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the DOJ had issued a memorandum on this to all prosecutors nationwide, as the IPO pressed for stronger coordination among government agencies.

Cristobal said the DOJ had ordered the prosecutors to submit within 15 days from receipt of the memorandum a list of all pending cases involving violation of Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code as well as a status report on these cases.

"The order will boost our effort to strengthen the IP system in the country and will also help us in our campaign to promote innovation and creativity among our pool of talented Filipinos," he said.

Cristobal cited data from the Office of the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court which showed that at least 1,184 IP cases were pending in various courts in the country. This does not include the charges that are still pending before the prosecutors and the DOJ, he said.

The IPO is also working with the National Bureau of Investigation, Optical Media Board, Bureau of Customs and the Philippine National Police in the campaign against piracy.

PAL seeks fare hike anew

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES HAS ASKED the Civil Aeronautics Board for authority to increase its surcharges on overseas flights in view of the continued rise in fuel prices.

For flights to the United States, Canada and Australia, PAL intends to raise its fuel surcharge by $12 per one-way ticket.

It is also seeking a $6 increase in the one-way fare to the Middle East to $19 from the current surcharge of $13. For all other foreign destinations except Guam, PAL seeks a $4 hike to $15 from $11.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the carrier needed the increase to minimize the impact of the surging fuel prices on its financial position.

PAL is on its sixth year of rehabilitation that will end in 2009.

In its fifth application filed with the CAB since aviation turbo prices started going up last year, the biggest local carrier said it intended to increase its fuel surcharge on one-way flights to the US and Canada to $49 from $37. For flights to Australia, a $12-hike would raise PAL's fuel surcharge to $34 from $22.

Bautista said the price of jet fuel hovered at around $80 a barrel as of end August. Fuel accounts for 40 percent of the airlines' operating cost. A weaker peso further drives the costs of imported fuel higher.

The CAB will hear PAL's new application by the middle of the month.

"For sure, our profitability will be affected by the no let-up increase in fuel prices. But we are constantly trying to reduce cost while enhancing the areas where we can sustain profits," said the PAL chief in an interview.

The flag carrier reported a 73-percent increase in its net income for the first quarter of its fiscal year at $27.5 million, (roughly P1.5 billion) from $15.92 million in the same period last year.

In July, the flag carrier raised its fuel surcharge on long haul flights by $15 for every one-way trip. But no adjustments were made then on the surcharge on its other flights.

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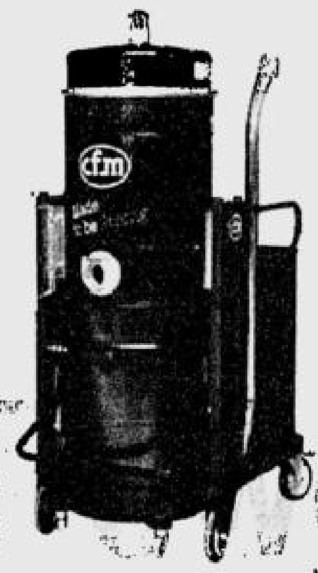

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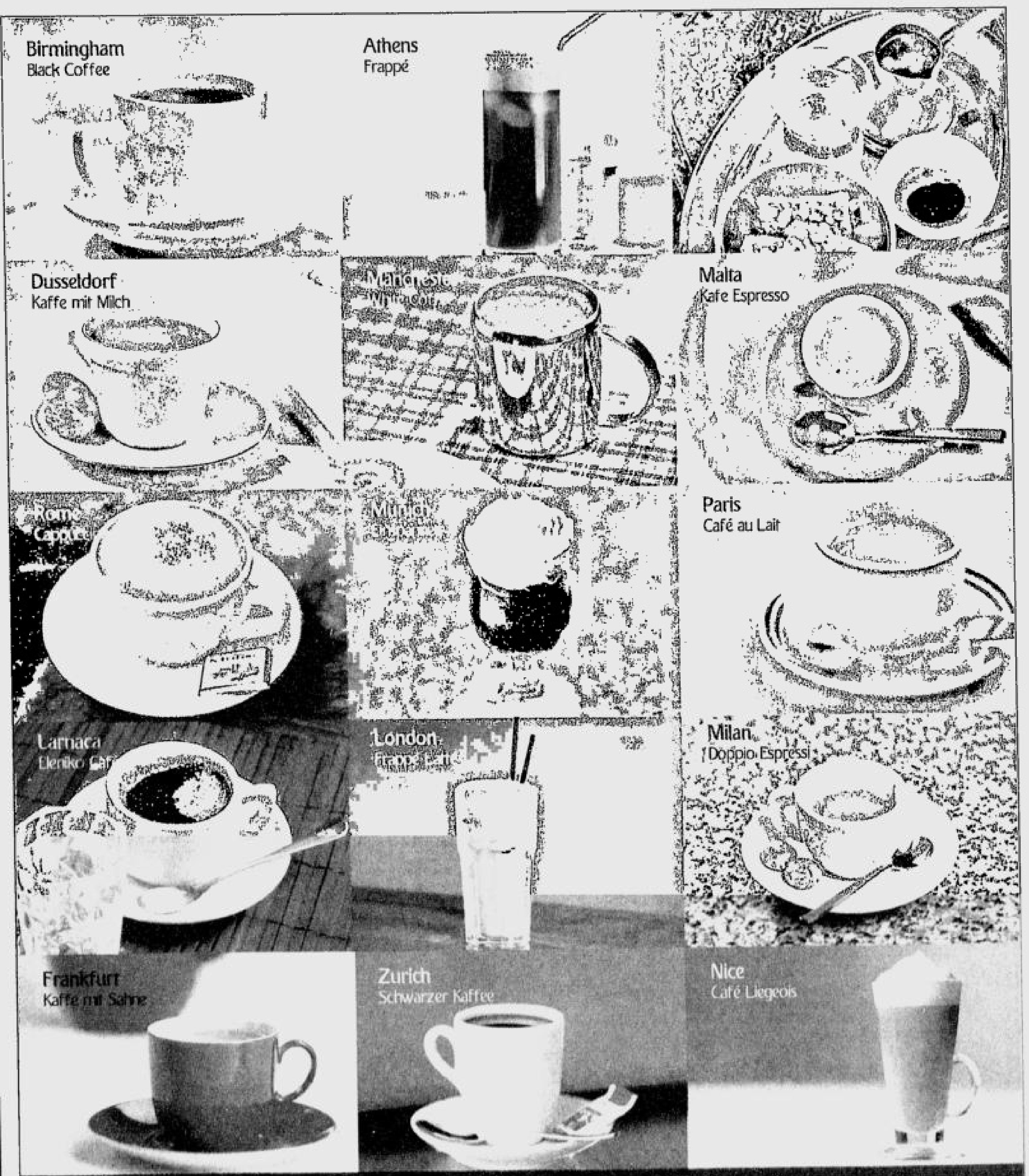

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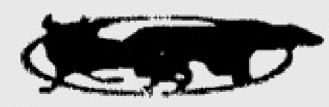
Market ignores Supreme Court's decision

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

I AM WRITING THIS ARTICLE BUT I AM NOT feeling well. I am having trouble with my kidneys, which are not functioning properly. I keep getting dizzy, I fall asleep even at work, I have no energy and my short-term memory is affected. I even forgot to send out my newsletter last Friday, but fortunately I was able to do so from home.

The creatinine level in my blood had to be rechecked, and the laboratory wanted to enter it in the Guinness Book of Records. The doctor is confident he can get it down to an acceptable level within a month and I have switched to a vegetarian diet as I cannot process protein. I have consumed about 3 tons of lettuce this week. Lettuce pray. Tomorrow is carrot day.

To get to the various departments in the hospital, you have to follow 8 different colored lines to various departments. Unfortunately, they employed a painter who was color blind so all the lines lead to the wrong places. I asked for the hematology laboratory and was told to follow the blue line. I did and ended up in the VD clinic.

I then asked for the nephrology department and finished up in the autopsy room. The nurse thought I said necrology. From there, I was directed to follow the yellow brick road, and found myself a maternity ward. Eventually, I found the laboratory and recognized the first nurse.

"Haven't we met before?" I asked. "Yes," she said out loud in front of 20 people. "We met in the VD clinic." I was so embarrassed that I blushed from my head to my toes. In fact, my toes went into a coma and became comatose.

I was hoping that a female technician would take my blood as they tend to be gentler, but I got a macho guy instead. Without warning, he jabbed the needle into my arm but all in vein. I still had a bruise 2 weeks later. I discovered that he is a national darts champion.

The doctor repeated his warning that I should stick to day trading and said he hoped to see me in 2 weeks' time after another blood test, but he sounded rather doubtful.

I took a taxi to work and the driver was incredibly fat. He drove like a maniac, weaving in between vehicles and overtaking buses on the wrong side. I said to him that he should get his weight down. He replied, "The way I drive, I don't worry about my cholesterol."

***

I was very disappointed in the way the market reacted to the passing of the expanded VAT law. I thought it would rise sharply, at least for a day, but it eventually closed with a miserable gain of 0.3 percent. Gross turnover looked reasonable at P1.2 billion but this included a block sale of 425M BEL and a cross sale of 160,000 TEL. Altogether, these and other cross sales accounted for P850 million, so actual trading was a mere P350 million.

Yesterday, the market collapsed, along with the SEC computer, so I still don't have any closing prices but the Phisix was down 17 points. The only thing that went up on my computer was the time clock. Contingency plans were put into action and orders were sent by carrier pigeon. Unfortunately, it is the hunting season and the Chinese are very fond of pigeon, so many of the orders did not get through.

The public has got fed up with the stock market and offered to buy P70 billion of the 5-year treasury bonds yielding 10.875 percent. These were offered in denominations as low as P5,000 and the P40 billion offered was oversubscribed. The government is now about to sell $850 million of bonds abroad and Napocor is also in the market for $100 million.

Immediately the Supreme Court announced its decision, there was an appeal for reconsideration, which will be rejected. But there were also appeals to delay increasing the price of fuel because it is at record levels, and also to exempt power. These might well be reconsidered as some judges were against them. So we are back to square one for the moment.

If Finance Secretary Gary Teves can get the VAT through unscathed, there is no certainty that GMA will increase the VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent next January. The country is in an even worse state than my kidneys. The opposition keeps plugging away at impeachment but cannot get the required 79 names.

The future of the country lies in the hands of the 18-30-year-olds. Because of our high birth rate, they exceed the number of senior citizens and form the most important segment of the population. They have the most energy and they MUST take an interest in politics.

First, they should decide whether they are for or against GMA. Then they should follow which way their congressmen and senators are voting. If their actions coincide, no problem, but if they are voting against their wishes, they should exert every effort to prevent them getting reelected. Persuade your parents and friends. We live in a democracy. You have the right to vote so exercise it. Only in this way can you reshape the politicians in power.

The other group is the 28 million people living below the poverty level. Most of these live in the provinces and are unlikely to be reading my article in the Business Section. To them, I hope some readers will say, "Don't sell your vote for a few hundred pesos. You represent a third of the population. Take the money because you need it and then vote for the candidate you prefer. If you are not sure, vote for the other guy. Bribery is illegal so you are not committing a sin."

I realize that this is a slow process, but it is the only way to ensure that the legislative will vote in accordance with the people's wishes, not their own. Every journey starts with a small step.

Even if fuel and power go up 10 percent, I do not think there will be another people power. The populace has gotten totally disillusioned with all politicians and this is not a local phenomenon. It is worldwide. What I sense might happen is a military coup to replace the President with a civilian governing body.

According to Bloomberg, former President Fidel Ramos said in an interview with the Straits Times, "GMA is unlikely to last her full term. Public anger over price increases, discontent in the military, and an opposition that is determined to oust her, makes her vulnerable. Restlessness in the military has fueled speculation of another coup attempt."

And Senator Biazon said on ABS-CBN, "The soldiers are watching and at some time they will decide whether our institutions are worth dying for." These messages are the opinions of 2 former chiefs of staff, and therefore carry weight. The coming weeks and months will provide the answer. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

BSP monitoring banks' $ purchases

By Daxim L. Lucas

BANK REGULATORS ARE CLOSELY monitoring several banks after some were found to have bought in recent weeks more US dollars than what they are allowed to hold.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said examiners were keeping an eye particularly on the banks' so-called "overbought limit," the threshold of how much dollars a bank can buy for its own account, as opposed to dollars it buys on behalf of a client.

"Some banks have already been warned because they went beyond their limits," he said in an interview. "We have called their attention on the matter."

Tetangco said the culprits in recent weeks were "mainly foreign" banks, although he declined to identify them.

Under central bank regulations, banks are allowed to buy dollars for their own account worth up to 2.5 percent of their unimpaired capital or $5 million, whichever is lower.

The BSP has so far reduced this limit to only a fourth of its former level in the late 1990s as it sought to curb speculative attacks against the peso.

The BSP had also fined several foreign banks for failing to comply with documentation requirements on their dollar purchases, another official revealed.

"In fact, we've penalized quite a number of banks already," another ranking bank official revealed. "They were found to have split their transactions to avoid seeking approval."

He explained that some banks break down their dollar purchases to transactions of $5,000 each—the maximum allowed for undocumented over-the-counter deals—to escape the eye of regulators.

"But we can see that they do it in a pattern so we penalize them," he said.

The peso has been depreciating since it peaked at 53.912 to $1 on March 18 this year, well before the outbreak of President Arroyo's political crisis. It has depreciated about 4 percent since then, although trading had been more volatile in the last two months.

Several banks—both foreign and local—have already been sanctioned in 2000 and 2002 for hoarding dollars to the detriment of the local currency.

Tetangco conceded that the "political noise" in recent months has had a detrimental effect on the exchange rate "because of its potential impact on the economic reform program."

Another central bank official explained that there was some confusion among foreign banks as to the exact level of the overbought position and whether the restriction was formal or just part of a "gentleman's agreement" among banks.

"But we have already issued a circular formalizing [the new restrictions] in 2003," the official explained, declining to be identified.

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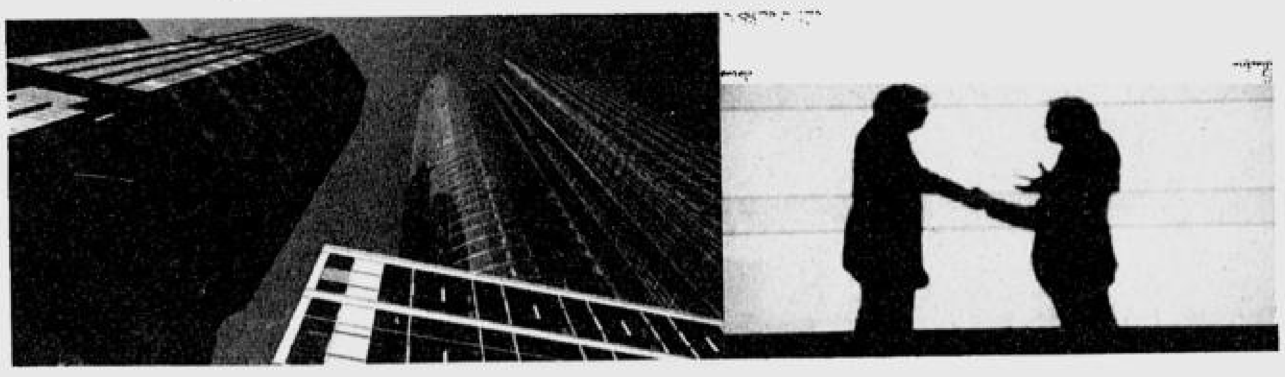

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BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	229,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	53	52	53	189,000
China Banking Corp.	820	830	820	830	400
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	51	51	38,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.75	38,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27.5	591,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	15.25	14.75	14.75	34,100
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	56,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	30,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2805	2805	2805	2805	480
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	141	140	140	1,200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1	0.99	0.99	2,041,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	740	725	735	13,490
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	17,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	16,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,979,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1610	1615	1590	1590	11,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.63	860,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,700
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	162,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	761,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.2	323,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	607,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	546,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.56	4,150,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	45,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	193,500
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	152,300
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94.5	93	94.5	69,400
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	4,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	297.5	297.5	295	295	5,720
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	50,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	3,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2	2.06	1,450,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	89,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	50,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	80,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	705,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	130,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	1,350,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	850,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	726,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	4,416,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	36,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	41.5	41.5	540,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	420,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.92	1.78	1.9	1,255,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	2,406,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	340,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	210	211	207	208	205,030
South China Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	130,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	330,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.16	10,020,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.29	0.21	0.29	8,490,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.95	1,660,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7.4	7.4	6	6	3,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.84	0.79	0.84	360,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	2,580,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	47,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	13,300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	18,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.7	3,547,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	53,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	190,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	4,000,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.12	0.135	0.115	0.135	2,030,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4	4	3.95	3.95	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	7	7.1	2,335,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	919,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.5	67,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.1	2.1	2	2	60,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	155,910,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.37	16,160,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	23,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	85,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	35,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.88	0.89	0.87	0.87	2,290,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	2,857,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	91,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	550,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	8,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	62,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	31,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	4.2	3.75	4.05	330,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.145	4,750,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.41	850,000

CURRENCIES

September 5, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797193878	1.000000	56.1160
Japan	Yen	0.007274	0.009125	0.5121
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470105	1.844100	103.4835
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102635	0.128745	7.2247
Switzerland	Franc	0.648705	0.813736	45.6636
Canada	Dollar	0.671661	0.842531	47.2795
Singapore	Dollar	0.476819	0.598122	33.5642
Australia	Dollar	0.609149	0.764117	42.8792
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.114685	2.652661	148.8567
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212585	0.266667	14.9643
Brunei	Dollar	0.475397	0.596338	33.4641
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019411	0.024349	1.3664
UAE	Dirham	0.217059	0.272279	15.2792
Euro	Euro	1	1.254400	70.3919
Argentina	Peso	0.274185	0.343938	19.3004
Brazil	REAL	0.340666	0.427332	23.9802
Denmark	Kroner	0.134082	0.168192	9.4383
India	Rupee	0.018201	0.022831	1.2812
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212019	0.265957	14.9244
Mexico	New Peso	0.074672	0.093668	5.2563
New Zealand	Dollar	0.561641	0.704523	39.5350
Norway	Kroner	0.128329	0.160976	9.0333
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013352	0.016749	0.9399
South Africa	Rand	0.1274	0.159811	8.9680
Korea	Won	0.000776	0.000974	0.0547
Sweden	Kroner	0.107856	0.135294	7.5922
Syria	Pound	0.015357	0.019264	1.0810
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024541	0.030784	1.7275
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000371	0.000466	0.0262

Gov't keeps growth . . .

From page B1

tiveness, improve productivity and sustain job growth," Santos said.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said that with the Supreme Court ruling last week that an expanded value-added tax law passed earlier this year was constitutional, the proposed 2006 national budget would allow for "higher spending given favorable revenues."

He said this should lead to "higher infrastructure spending" to make the country more attractive to investors.

However, Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetantco warned that "average inflation in 2005 and 2006 will likely exceed targets" at 7.9 percent this year and 7.5 percent in 2006, compared to government goals of 5-6 and 4-5 percent, respectively.

"Second-round effects" such as wage increases and "volatility in the exchange rate" are expected in the short term, he added.

He said the foreign exchange reserves stood at $17.67 billion as of July, equivalent to nearly four months worth of imports, while remittances of the large Filipino overseas workforce remained robust and investment flows were strong despite a political crisis that has rocked President Gloria Arroyo.

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

TM, Department of Agriculture tie up for text services

THERE are many variables that can affect agri-businesses which in turn, affect the price of agriculture commodities. Chief among these is the weather which can impact heavily on a farmer or a fisherman's earnings. Extreme fluctuations in the weather have been known to drive up the price of vegetables and other produce. It is imperative therefore, for them to always be apprised of changes in local weather conditions, and conversely, for consumers to always know the prices of their products.

Fortunately for this sector's farmers, fisherfolk and consumers, TM, (the new Touch Mobile), has been tapped by the Department of Agriculture (DA), to make information on weather and agri-product prices readily available through just a text message with services called Presyo Text and Ulat Panahon Text.

"It has always been our thrust to use our resources and partnerships to the advantage of our subscribers. These relevant services were specially tailored to provide TM's blue-collar subscribers in the agriculture sector with reliable, convenient services that will make a difference in their lives," said Nonie Busuego, head of TM.

To conveniently access weather forecasts through Ulat Panahon Text, all TM subscribers need to do is type the keyword PANAHON and send to 2254. TM will respond with simple instructions for retrieving the required climate updates.

Presyo Text on the other hand gives subscribers a list of DA-recommended wet markets where consumers are assured of fresh produce at the most affordable prices called Huwarang Palangkes. To access the prices of basic goods provided by Price Watch of the DA, TM subscribers just need to send the keyword PRESYO to 2256.

The DA's Huwarang Palengke includes Sangandaan, Guadalupe, Dagonoy, Tumana, Concepcion (Marikina), Farmers, Muñoz, Clara, Libertad, Blumentritt, Polo, Bonifacio, Kaunlaran, Poblacion, Pritil, Parang, Alabang, Commonwealth, Arayat, Pasig, Agora, Taguig, Karuhatan, Malinta and Sta. Elena among others.

This tie-up with the DA is but one of the many partnerships that tap the resources of the new TM in order to give relevant and convenient communication services to the previously unserviced blue collar segment. These new information services provided by TM are sure to benefit farmers, fishermen and other agri businesses and consumers alike.

OUSTANDING LA SALLE ZOBEL TEACHERS

The Parents Association (PA) of De La Salle Zobel recently declared the winners in its Search for Outstanding Lasallian Teachers 2004-2005. Seen in photo are the winners: (3rd from left) Purita M. Paoa (Outstanding Lasallian Grade School Teacher) and (4th from left) Agnes B. Panaligan (Outstanding Lasallian High School Teacher) with their plaques and P20,000 cash prizes. Also in photo (from left) are: Ronnie D. Holmes (DLSZ executive vice president), Bobbit F. Mamawal (PA president), the winners, Jovy L. Pereche (PA chair), and Alita P. Gamboa (PA director for educational affairs). The Search contest involved the evaluation of top performers in the school's own evaluation system then narrowed down in terms of adherence to the Lasallian virtues. The pioneering project is the PA's contribution to complementing the quality of education in De La Salle Zobel School by way of recognizing teachers who 'teach minds, touch hearts, transform lives' according to the teachings of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

ProductFILES

Coffee milestones with Great Taste

BECAUSE of its pioneering efforts and innovations, local coffee brand Great Taste has played a significant role in the history, growth and expansion of the country's coffee industry. Long before cafes and coffee shops mushroomed around the metro, Universal Robina Corp (URC), has been an industry trailblazer with numerous products that later defined the trends in the market.

In the 1960's, URC's Blend 45 entered the coffee arena as the first locally manufactured coffee blend. Dubbed as the "Pinoy Coffee" because of its distinctly Filipino blend and flavor, Blend 45 immediately captured the attention and preference of countless Pinoys. Today, the brand continues to be the coffee that is uniquely and proudly Filipino in taste.

After Blend 45's initial success, a slew of many other firsts were introduced in the market under the Great Taste brand name. In the 1970's, Great Taste Granules, the first concentrated coffee in the country was introduced. The unique coffee format coupled with an affordable price has since set the standard for economy among coffee drinkers. It truly goes "a long, long way" considering that up until today, Great Taste Granules gives consumers more coffee for their money's worth without compromising taste and flavor. And by the time the 80's rolled in, Great Taste had ensured its niche in the economical coffee market by introducing the first refill pack in foil.

It was in the same decade that Great Taste came up with another "first" - Great Taste Coffee Mixes, the first complete 3-in-1 flavored coffee mix. This novel idea was designed to complement the increasingly busy and fast-paced lifestyle of more and more Filipinos.

Fast-forward to 1999, on the brink of the new millennium and greater changes, Great Taste introduced two new innovations to the coffee industry - Great Taste 2in1 and Great Taste Ready to Drink (RTD). Both are pioneering brands that further expanded the Philippine coffee market. Great Taste 2in1 was geared towards black coffee drinkers while Great Taste RTD was created specifically for the younger and more adventurous coffee-loving crowd.

In a span of more than four decades, Great Taste has definitely proven that it is a coffee brand with both a glorious heritage and a dynamic future. As the pioneering spirit behind momentous breakthroughs in the coffee industry, Great Taste has indeed played a significant role in the Philippine coffee history -- but it doesn't end there.

This year, Great Taste re-launched two of their biggest brands - Great Taste Premium and Great Taste 3-in-1 - enriched with even richer flavor and aroma to satisfy the increasingly discriminating Pinoy palate. With the unending quest of local brands like Great Taste to improve, to innovate and to be at par with the best blends in the world, the Philippine coffee industry is indeed looking up.

Great Taste
PREMIUM
PREMIUM
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CAPPUCCINO

'Mastery in Surgery 2005: Bridging Gaps in Surgical Care'

THE FOUNDATION for the Advancement of Surgical Education Inc (Fase) in cooperation with the Department of Surgery of the University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) will hold its 41st Annual Postgraduate Course entitled, "Mastery in Surgery 2005: Bridging Gaps in Surgical Care" on Sept. 7 to 9, at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila.

The objective of this year's postgraduate course is to present the standard of care for surgical diseases and offer alternative strategies when these standards or ideals are not available in the local setting. The course will feature lectures, video presentations and panel and interactive case discussions in presenting surgical strategies meant to bridge gaps in surgical care, utilizing the wealth of clinical material and experience which the UP-PGH Department of Surgery is known for. Among the highlights of the course is the Chancellor Alfredo T. Ramirez, M.D. Memorial Lecture, entitled, Craniopagus Twins: 20 Years After, which will be delivered on Sept. 7, by one of the country's most prominent neurosurgeons, Dr. Faustino T. Domingo. Immediately following the Memorial Lecture is the Dr. Potenciano Guazon Oration, to be given by no less than the chair of the UP-PGH Department of Surgery, Dra. Josefina R. Almonte.

The postgraduate course will also feature workshops on Ultrasound for Surgeons, Critical Care for Abdominal Sepsis, and Basic Skills in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Injuries, and these will simultaneously be held on Sept. 9. A workshop on Basic Surgical Clinical Nursing exclusively for nurses will also be conducted on Sept. 8.

The participants of the postgraduate course will be given 100 CME units by the PMA and 25 CSE units by the PCS. In addition, attendance in any of the workshops will merit 10 CSE units. The Department of Health has also issued Circular No. 2005-0145 dated July 27, 2005 stating that duties of government physicians attending this activity whether on official time or official business are delegated to the Heads of Offices concerned, per item no. 1 of the Department Order No. 123-F s. 2000.

Advanced registration is on-going at the UP-PGH Department of Surgery. For particulars, please contact Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa or Ms Nette R. Mercado at (02) 524-1144, (02) 521-8450 local 2257, fax (02) 526-4356, or e-mail at mastery_of_surgery@yahoo.com or therbosa@mail.upm.edu.ph or nettemer@mail.upm.edu.ph.

Masaito wins Most Outstanding Subdivision for Vallejo Place and Classica

MASAITO Development Corporation's prime projects Vallejo Place and Classica at Northgate are the recipients of a Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards as this year's Most Outstanding Subdivisions.

The PMEA Awards are given out yearly by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute Inc, the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship and Sales and Marketing magazine to recognize companies that earn a high level of customer satisfaction, market appreciation, and effective use of marketing methods. According to PMEA, the organization also awards other companies in various categories and that the award was given on the basis of the results of various surveys, focus group discussions and market researches jointly conducted by consumers and marketing professionals for the sole purpose of selecting the best marketing companies or brands.

Vallejo Place, awarded as the Most Outstanding Subdivision in Cavite, is located in Bacoor Cavite. The attraction of Vallejo Place lies not just on its houses and amenities but also the conveniences that it brings to its residents. Masaito's tie-up with SM Prime Properties made way for the construction of the SM Supercenter Molino which is just a walk away from Vallejo Place. Aside from its entrance near the SM Supercenter, there is another entrance along Daang Hari Road which makes it easy to travel to Alabang and Makati. Vallejo Place offers 3 units to choose from - Francesca, a 3 bedroom unit with a floor area of 105 sq.m., Danica (floor area of 83 sq.m.) with 2 bedrooms and a viewing deck and Monica a villas type home with a floor area of 51 sq.m.

Classica at Northgate in San Jose Del Monte Bulacan was awarded as the Most Outstanding Subdivision in Bulacan. Classica effectively combines the three major criteria in owning a house - accessibility, affordability and exclusivity. The project is located along Quirino Highway and is just a few minutes away from malls, hospitals and schools. Its financing flexibility gives the client a choice whether he wants to acquire it via HDMF, bank or in-house financing. Classica offers two model units namely Priscilla, a single attached home with a floor area of 66.5 sq.ms and Pamela , a townhouse type unit with a floor area of 45.35 sq.ms. The whole subdivision is enclosed by a perimeter fence to ensure exclusivity. It also has an entrance gate with guardhouse, a piazza, a chapel, a basketball court and parks and a playground.

Masaito Development Corp, along with its sister company Citihomes Builder and Development Inc are also the developers of Brentwood in Mabalacat Pampanga, Bellazona (Bacoor, Cavite), Covina (Imus, Cavite) Summerfield (Trece Martires, Cavite) and Northgate at Sarmiento (San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan). Guided tours can be arranged for interested parties (751-6010 to 12).

Bits Clips

AC '95 yearbook offered for review to batch '95

TO ALL Assumption College graduates batch '95, The Regina 1995 staff is calling all its AC '95 batchmates to have a look at the blueprint of their yearbook. It is hoped that this will give all the graduates a chance to review their write ups and photos before it is finally published. The staff can be reached via cell number 0917-822-4995 or e-mail gsm12@yahoo.com. Deadline for inquiries has been extended until Sept. 30.

Skincare seminar

BIOWELLNESS invites you to a Sensible Skincare Seminar and New Product Presentation of Oxygen Botanicals at Westin Philippine Plaza Leyte/Samar Function Room Roxas Blvd., Pasay City on Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dr. Mohamed Hagar, medical director, Sybaritic Inc, and director of Aesthetic Medical Training Institute of Minneapolis USA and Giscard Bechara, international sales manager of Body Care and Skin Care Products and Equipment will share their knowledge and provide and extensive talk on the subject matter. Seminar fee is at P1,500 inclusive of snacks while early birds get 20 percent discount. For inquiries and reservation call Macky Tria at 415-0522.

De La Salle GSB offers diploma program

DE LA Salle Professional Schools Inc Graduate School of Business (DLS PSI-GSB) offers the Post-Graduate Diploma in Property Management (PGDPM) in cooperation with the Philippine Association of Building Administrators Inc (Paba). The program is scheduled to start on Sept. 6, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. at the DLS PSI-GSB, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Each participant earns the DLS PSI-GSB-Paba Diploma upon completion of the required seven module courses, and becomes an alumnus of DLS PSI GSB. For more information, contact Minette Dotollo of DLS PSI-GSB at 753-4611 loc. 105 and fax number 753-4616; or Resnelle Pilar of Paba at 819-2656 and fax number 893-0155.

Gayon Bicol Fiesta III

REGION V is robustly preparing to throw its biggest event of the year – the Gayon Bicol Fiesta III sa Peñafrancia, slated from September 7 to 18 in Naga City. This is aligned with one of the country's biggest pilgrimages, the feast of the Patroness of the Bicol Region – Our Lady of Peñafrancia. The third edition of Gayon Festival is even made more special because it will actually occur in Bicol, unlike in the previous years, which were held in Intramuros, Manila, as part of the Department of Tourism (DOT)'s "Philippines' Best!" regional exhibits and cultural extravaganza.

FEU-NRMF Medical Center's post grad course

THE DEPARTMENT of Child Health of FEU-Nicanor Reyes Memorial Foundation Medical Center will hold its 17th Post-Graduate Course "Solving the Puzzles in Pediatric Practice: The Continuum," on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo Sr., Malate, Manila. The course is open to all general practitioners, pediatricians, family medicine practitioners, pediatric residents and fellows and those with special interest in child health. For registration and further inquiries, please call Dr. Rowena Ajaro, Dr. Carlo Mendoza, or Cristy Ong, at telephone/fax nos. 937-8286, 427-0213 loc. 5009 or e-mail at feupedia@yahoo.com.

MST family reunion

MARYHILL School of Theology will hold its first MST Family Grand Reunion on Sept. 8. The event will gather all persons who in one way or another were touched by Maryhill School of Theology: past and present administrators, resource persons, graduates, students, benefactors and friends. The gathering will be capped by a barbecue party and cultural presentation in the evening, which will showcase the rich, intercultural atmosphere of Maryhill School of Theology, #62 14th corner Gilmore Sts., New Manila, Quezon City. Presently, it has 73 foreign students from 23 countries. For more details contact: Ria Perez, Alumni and Development Office 721-26-95 or email: mstalumni@yahoo.com

PSHBT annual confab

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (PSHBT) will be holding its 35th Annual Convention on Sept. 5 to 7 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The theme for this year is "New Frontiers in Hematology". For more details, contact Let Hernandez at 723-0101 loc. 5304/0917-373-9535 or meail at pshbtorg1960@yahoo.com.

Nina at Suburbia Bar

CHECK out Nina Uncovered. The Bar Tour on its last stop at Suburbia Bar on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 9:30 p.m. and experience a fitting run-up to Nina's next big project - her major solo concert at Araneta Coliseum. Suburbia is located at 1718 M. Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila. For inquiries contact Suburbia Bar at 811-0725/450-1685 or e-mail at suburbia@xaxmusic.com.

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MARIKINA

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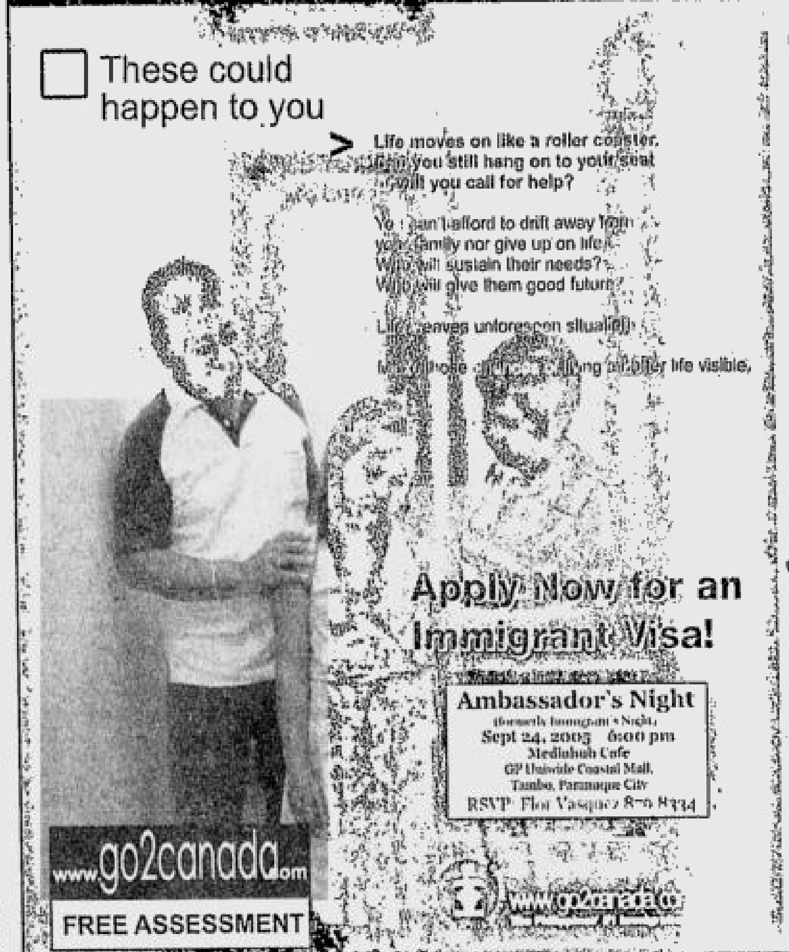
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7517143 / 8793118 / 879-8334 / 0917-9077761
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Email: naga@go2canada.com

FREE SEMINARS & ASSESSMENT

METRO MANILA OFFICES

- Uniwide Coastal Mall, Parañaque City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Alabang - Wednesdays @ 6PM - See contact details above.
- Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above
- Binondo - Mondays to Saturdays - See contact details above.
- Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
- Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 10AM - 6PM - See contact details above.
- Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above
- West Avenue, Quezon City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM, 5PM - See contact details above.

PROVINCIAL SEMINARS

- NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
- DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- September 4 CALAMBA, LAGUNA @ 2PM - Riverview Resort & Conference Center National Highway, Parian, Calamba [Call Menne (049) 545.1850 / 545.1278 | Grace (02) 879.8306]
- September 11 SAN PABLO CITY @ 2PM - Max's Restaurant Maharlika Hi-way San Francisco Calihan, San Pablo City [Call Mandu Abrigo (049) 561.1636 / 0919 200 4370 | Joan (049) 562.2512/0459 | Susan (02) 879 0213 / 919 353.9491 | Emy (02) 879 0311 / 0916 661 7891
- September 17 IBA ZAMBALES @ 10AM - Hopeful Beginnings Institute-Rhoi Bldg II. National Highway, Palanginan Call Donas Cruz and Lourdes Carino (047) 811-3588 | Lyn 0920 226-4744 | Wess 0919 473-2442]
- September 17 SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA @ 9AM - Patrios Restaurant, Olongapo-Gapan Rd San Fernando Call Lita David (045) 961.3900 / 963.7434 | Grace (02) 879.8306]
- September 17 ANGELES CITY @ 4PM Marlin Mansions Mc Arthur Highway, Balibago, Angeles City Call Lanie Andrada (045) 322 2002 | Susan (02) 879 0218
- September 17 ILOCOS NORTE @10AM - La Elliana Hotel, JP Rizal St. Cor Ablan Ave, Laoag City Call Jasie (077) 771 4876 | Beng 0919 355 9511 | Susan 0919 353 9491
- September 17 TUGEGARAO @9AM - Adimel's Restaurant Bonifacio Ave cor Maharlika Highway Victory Norte, Santiago City [Call (078) 682 8434 / 5506 | Gold (02) 879 0217 / 0301 / 0916 749 6320]
- September 18 ILOCOS SUR @ 10AM - Ancaro Mansion, #1 Mena Crisologo St. Vigan City [Call Gemma (077) 722 2383 | Susan 0919 353 9491 | Beng 0919 355 9511
- September 18 NUEVA VISCAYA @ 2PM - Bread N' Bites National Highway Solano[Call Ma Mona (078)332.2084 / CG 493 5763 | Gold (02)879 0217 / 0916 749 6320 | Sid (02)879 0301 / 0919 748 4538]
- September 24 TARLAC CITY @ 9AM - La Maja Rica Hotel & Restaurant, Ligtasan Mc Arthur Highway [Call Angie (045) 611.2051 to 2053 | Grace (02) 879.8306
- September 25 ISABELA @ 2PM - King George Hotel, Bonifacio Ave Cor Maharlika Highway, Victory Norte Santiago [illegible]

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2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROSA Y. ALVAREZ has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 239, Page No. 48, Book No. XVIII, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Robert Michael A. Natividad of San Mateo, Rizal.
(PDI-Aug. 23, 30 & Sept. 6, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Filipino Fund Inc. Stock Cert. No. 13858-10,000 shares purchased on August 31, 1995 under Robert O. Campos were declared lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2005)

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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II, Item No. OMBA-GIO2-14-2004; SG-27; **Education** Bachelor of Laws; **Experience**. 4 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; **Training**: 24 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: RA 1080 (Bar)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I, (2) Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-11-2004, OMBA-GIO1-12-2004, SG-26; **Education**: Bachelor of Laws; **Experience**: 3 years of relevant experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; **Training**: 24 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: RA 1080 (Bar)

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II, (4) Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO2-78-2004, OMBA-AGIO2-79-2004, OMBA-AGIO2-84-2004, OMBA-AGIO2-85-2004; SG-18 **Education**; Bachelor of Laws or Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **Experience**: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work, system studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work (for Law graduates); One (1) year of experience in conducting community work, system studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work (for other Bachelor's degree holder); **Training**: 8 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: RA 1080 (BAR) for Law graduates; or other Career Service (Professional) Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position, for other Bachelor's degree holder.

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I, (4) Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO1-137-2004, OMBA-AGIO1-139-2004, OMBA-AGIO1-140-2004, OMBA-AGIO1-141-2004; SG-15; **Education**: Bachelor of Laws; **Experience**: None required; **Training**: None required; **Eligibility**: RA 1080 (BAR) or **Education**: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **Experience**: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/ analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work; **Training**: None required; **Eligibility**: Career Service Professional.

CLERK III, (2) Item Nos. OMBA-CK3-30-2004, OMBA-CK3-32-2004; SG-6; **Education**: Completion of two years studies in college; **Experience**: None required; **Training**: None required; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

DRIVER I, Item No. OMBA-DRV1-17-2004; SG-3; **Education**: Elementary School Graduate; **Experience**: None required; **Training**: None required; **Eligibility**: Driver License (MC 11, s 96-Cat. II)

Interested applicants willing to be assigned at Calamba, Laguna should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Officer Order No. 49-05:

1. A letter stating the position applied for;
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form 212);
3. "1x1" picture (colored);
4. Bar/Board rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5. Transcript of Records;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the position assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

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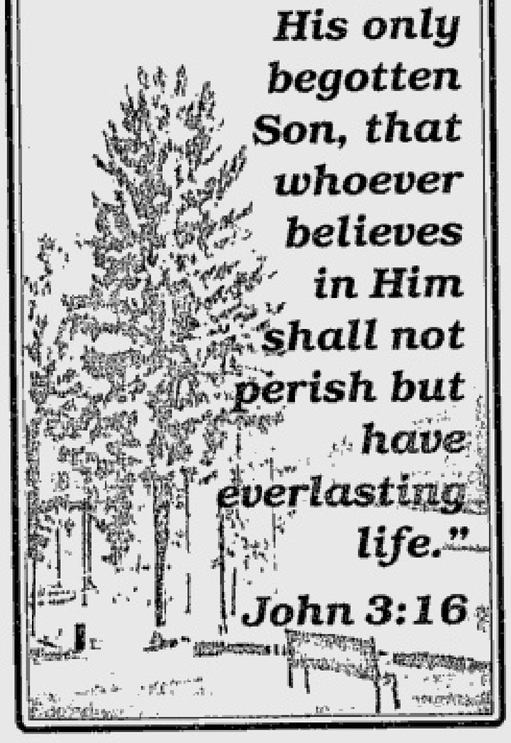

"For God so loved
the world,
that He gave
His only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved Father

ATTY. VICENTE P. TORDILLA, JR.

IBP Camarines Sur-Chapter; Past President 1989-1991
Ateneo de Naga High School Class 1954
Ateneo de Manila Law School Class 1966

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 4, 2005 at the age of 68.

His children **TONY & GRACE, REGGIE & DONG, LISA & GABBY, TIN-TIN** and **TANG-TANG**; grandchildren **DONN, ALEC, MANS, TITAT, KITKIT; KIKO** and **JUDE**; his brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be in Calabanga, Camarines Sur, the date of interment to be announced later.

In Loving Memory
on her First Death Anniversary

ARACELI S. BRION

Retired School Supervisor and College Instructress of San Pablo City who passed unto Eternal Life on September 06, 2004.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the followنig churches:

St. Paul, The First Hermit Cathedral, San Pablo City	6:15 AM
Carmelite Monastery, Brgy. Concepcion, San Pablo City	7:00 AM
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, CA USA	11:00 AM

*Her sisters **Lina** and **Carmelita**, brother **Nonilon**, brother-in-law **Simplicio T. Ramos**, sisters-in-law **Aurora**, **Imelda** and **Evangeline**, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.*

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Marciana "Chaneng" Cuevas Castillo

Born: November 2, 1933
Peacefully joined her Creator on Sept. 4, 2005 at the age of 72.

Her bereaved husband: Juan "Johnny" Casas Castillo (†); sons & daughters-in-law Benny & Eya, Catcho & Denia, Louie & Lina, Arnel, Miday, Lady & Leng, Willy & Cris; daughters & sons-in-law Perla & Totong, Lilia & Rudy, Cherry & Manny, Techie & Brandy; grandchildren & spouses Quincy & Jaime Jr., Ivan & Daisy, Lek, Ivy & Dennis, Bing, Icy & Embet, VJ & Bong, Igay & Joven, Jhut, JL & Anne, Giorgio, Karlo, Mark, Sergio, CJ, Ira, Nico, Ayellie, Cy, Gabe, Juliane, Sofia, Isis, Axle & Beatrice; sisters, brothers & spouses Nilo & Vener, Juaning & Moises, Lelet & Rolly, Ony & Marita; and other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul

Her remains lie in state at Castillo Residence #522 T. Sulit St., Aguho, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, after the 1:30 pm mass at San Roque Parish Church, Brgy. Poblacion Pateros,Metro Manila.

Message of Thanks

The family of

CARMELA DACUMOS BERNALES

who passed away on September 1, 2005

Her husband **Arturo** (†); children **Art Franciz, Art Bernard**, and **Ma. Carmelita**; siblings **Luis** (†) and **Elisa Taca, Evangelina** (†), **Guillermo Jr.** & **Maxine, Rosalinda** and **Amelia**, wish to express their gratitude to all those who contributed their time, offered prayers & Masses, sent flowers and shared with us in the celebration of her life.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Zamboanga, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Association (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of contract (By Cluster)	*Location*	*Brief Description*	*Approved Budget for the Contract*	*Contract Duration*
1 Construction of Covered Shed at Commercial Center, Bagsakan	Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City	Construction of roofed shed & stalls, calling for masonry, carpentry and electrical works with painting	P6,451,500.00	One Hundred Fifty Seven (157) Calendar days
TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT			P6,451,500.00	

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the (Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 27, 2005 to September 9, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	on or before September 9, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	on or before September 9, 2005
4. Eligibility Check	September 13, 2005
5. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 14, 2005
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15-16, 2005
7. Pre-bid Conference	September 17, 2005
8. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 30, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P100 for Contractor's Registry to the City Treasurer. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00 to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA SAN AUGSTIN GARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI-August 29, 2005 & September 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. X
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City 9000
☎ (088) 858-7422, (088) 858-1498
✉ coar10@websprinter.net

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Five (5) Service Vehicles

1. The Commission on Audit, Region X intends to apply the sum of Four Million Pesos (P4,000,000.00) with the following technical specifications:

   Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV), - 4-cylinder Diesel engine; displacement: 2400cc to 2500cc; Direct injection; Manual Transmission (M/T); Rear wheel driver; Rack and Pinion Power Steering; Dual Aircon system with independent switch control; Car stereo; Brakes System - front discs & rear drums, at least 185/R14 Tire & Wheels; Mono-tone body color; Company rust-proofing with mudguards; Standard tools with Early Warning Device (EWD); Seat cover, tint and matting;

   being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Motor Vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting September 6 to September 14, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o RCD Hesselinda A. Valencia, ☎ (088) 858-7422, COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City.
3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 1:30 p.m., September 15, 2005 at COA Conference Room, COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City.
4. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on 1:30 p.m., September 28, 2005, at COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.
5. The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **FELIX P. ALBINDA**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Presiding Officer
☎ (088) 858-2964
✉ fpalbinda@yahoo.com

(PDI - Sept. 6 & 13, 2005)

National Power Corporation
GEOTHERMAL GENERATION
BAC-MAN GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT COMPLEX

August 31, 2005

INVITATION TO BID

INTERESTED PARTIES / SUPPLIERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC BIDDING TO BE CONDUCTED ON October 5, 2005 2:00 P.M. FOR:

PR#3BAC-05-0397 / PB-05-0555 - WORK ORDER
Supply of Labor and Materials for the Replacement of Hydrogen Pipings from Carbon Steel to Stainless of BacMan I, unit # 1 & 2 (Generator Gas Analyzer)
COST ESTIMATE: Php 1,674,999.94

COPIES OF BID DOCUMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PROCUREMENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, GROUND FLOOR, BAC-MAN GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT COMPLEX AND MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE October 05, 2005 10:00 A.M.

ALL BIDS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH BID SECURITY IN THE FOLLOWING FORMS:

- CASH, MANAGER'S OR CASHIER'S CHECK ONE (1%) OF THE ABC
- 2.5% of total ABC issued by the GSIS / PRIVATE SURETY with the following conditions:
  1. The bond is a penal and callable on demand
  2. The entire amount shall be forfeited in favor of the oblige upon default of the supplier. Terms printed in the policy form of surety company that is contrary to the intents of the above provisions should be deleted.

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT A PRE-BID CONFERENCE AND PRE-ELIGIBILITY SCREENING WILL BE ON

DATE September 26, 2005
TIME 10:00 A.M.
VENUE Bac-Man Geothermal Power Plant Complex, Conference Room

IN THIS CONNECTION YOUR PRESENCE OR A NECESSITY IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS IS HIGHLY SOUGHT.

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES PLS. CONTACT BAC SECRETARIAT BMGPP COMPLEX AT (052) 820-3133.

(Sgd.) ROLANDO E. CAWALING
BAC Chairman, BMGPP Complex

(PDI – Sept. 6 & 13, 2005)

FEU-NRMF Medical Center hold its 17th Post-Graduate Course

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD Health of FEU-NRMF Medical Center will hold its 17th Post-Graduate Course entitled "Solving the Puzzles in Pediatric Practice: The Continuum", on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Century Park Hotel, Malate.

This is open to all general practitioners, pediatricians, Family Medicine practitioners, pediatric residents and fellows and those with special interest in Child Health. For registration and further inquiries, please call Dr. Carlo Mendoza or Cristy Ong at telephone/fax nos. 937-8286, 427-0213 loc. 5009 or e-mail at feupedia@yahoo.com

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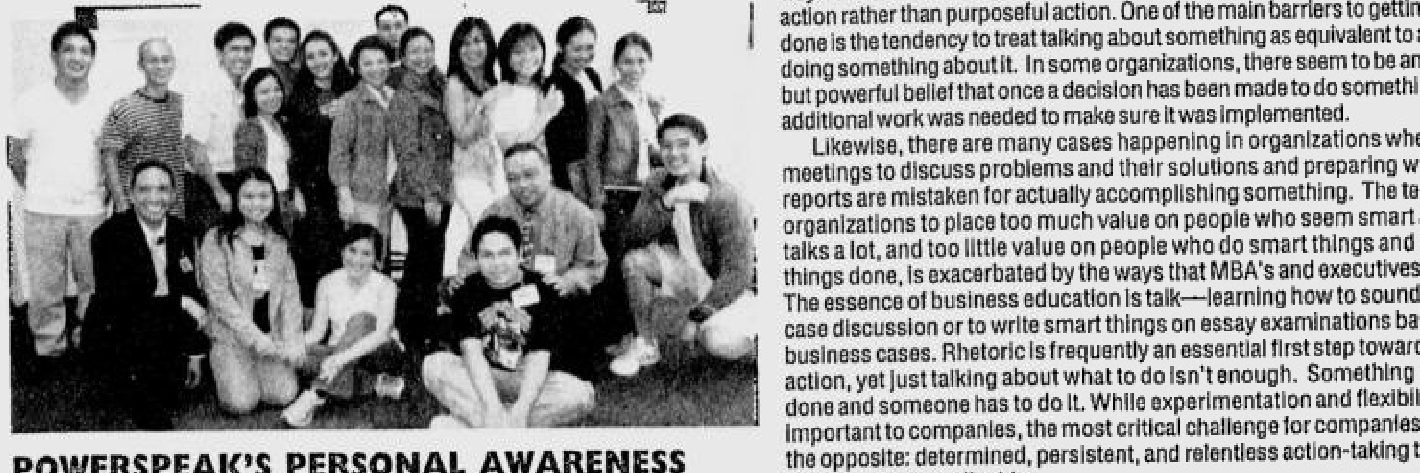

POWERSPEAK'S PERSONAL AWARENESS AND LEADERSHIP SEMINAR. Shown are the graduates of the Third Batch of PowerSpeak's Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar (PALs) held last August 12 to 14. The graduates attest that the three-day seminar was highly beneficial and insightful, providing them with an enlightening fresh perspective towards life. PALs is based on the fundamental principle that each individual possesses unlimited, untapped potential and unlocking these allows a person to achieve greater results and abundance. Also in photo are the facilitators Rene Austria (standing 6th from right) and Joey P. Reyes, (seated 2nd from left, wearing a suit). PALs Batch 4 is slated on September 16-18. Interested parties may inquire at 840-5958 and 840-5960, or text 0922-8007326, or email at powerspeak@gmail.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

The country is hungry for actions, not words

THERE IS A DISTURBING RESEARCH CONCLUSION THAT STATES: Despite all their activity, only a small fraction of managers actually get something done that really matters or moves their organizations forward in a meaningful way. In other words, a great majority of managers are engaged in mindless action rather than purposeful action. One of the main barriers to getting things done is the tendency to treat talking about something as equivalent to actually doing something about it. In some organizations, there seem to be an unspoken, but powerful belief that once a decision has been made to do something, no additional work was needed to make sure it was implemented.

Likewise, there are many cases happening in organizations where holding meetings to discuss problems and their solutions and preparing written reports are mistaken for actually accomplishing something. The tendency for organizations to place too much value on people who seem smart and who talks a lot, and too little value on people who do smart things and get a lot of things done, is exacerbated by the ways that MBA's and executives are taught. The essence of business education is talk—learning how to sound smart in case discussion or to write smart things on essay examinations based on business cases. Rhetoric is frequently an essential first step towards taking action, yet just talking about what to do isn't enough. Something has to get done and someone has to do it. While experimentation and flexibility are important to companies, the most critical challenge for companies is exactly the opposite: determined, persistent, and relentless action-taking to achieve a purpose, against all odds.

Driven by deep personal commitment to the goal that cuts out distractions and overcomes difficulties, purposeful action is not a mere flirtation with ideas. It is not the superficial attempt to achieve something. It is action-taking to produce certain results, with undivided resolve. Delivering results thru purposeful action, or aptly dubbed, "GAWĀ, HINDI DADÂ!" is the conference theme of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines.

This annual gathering of Human Resource practitioners and managers from different sectors of society is scheduled on September 28-30, at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. For registrations and inquiries, contact the PMAP Professional Staff at 726-1532, 726-1581 and 726-1588 or email pmap@pmap.org.ph

On Malampaya project, second opinion sought

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD first ask various entities with ample technical expertise to thoroughly study the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project before offering third-party companies to drill oil from the gas find.

In pushing for an extensive cost-benefit analysis of the project, Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez yesterday said that the country stood to benefit from the expected oil yield, in terms of foreign exchange savings, additional revenues and a measure of energy independence.

Right now, the Malampaya gas find is providing natural gas for three plants generating 2,700 megawatts (MW) of electricity: The 1,200-MW Ilijan, the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and the 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants, Alvarez pointed out.

Since the Malampaya oil reserves are below the 600-meter thick cap where the natural gas is being produced, the project may be jeopardized if any mistake is made in extracting the oil, Alvarez said.

Besides, the projected $2-billion value of the estimated yield of between 25 million and 40 million barrels of oil may not even be worth the investment to extract and develop the oil, as well as the damage that it may cause to the gas find, he said.

An industry expert said it would take between $700 million and $800 million to extract and develop the Malampaya oil. *Abigail L. Ho*

BUSINESS

BSP: Cap on gov't loans in place

By Daxim L. Lucas

FINANCIAL REGULATORS HAVE imposed limits on the amount of foreign loans that the government and private firms will be allowed to borrow in any given year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas revealed yesterday.

According to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., the policy is meant to ensure sufficient supply of dollars in the local financial system to service the repayment of maturing foreign debt.

In particular, the policy-making Monetary Board also wants to prevent a repeat of the 1983 debt crisis when the country ran out of dollar reserves to pay off maturing short-term loans.

"We are gathering the borrowing plans of the public and private sectors, and we will assess if we can accommodate it," said Tetangco, who also chairs the Monetary Board which is mandated by law to screen and approve every foreign loan entered into by public or private entities.

So far, however, he said no public or private borrowing initiatives have been turned down since approvals sought from the Monetary Board were "well within the limits" and "manageable."

Companies that borrow in dollars without the central bank's approval are barred from buying dollars from the banking system to pay for these loans when they mature.

Tetangco expressed confidence that "prudent monitoring" of the country's external debt levels will prevent a repeat of a debt moratorium.

"Short-term debts account for only 10 percent of the country's external debt," Tetangco yesterday told reporters during an economic forum. This was in contrast with the situation in the early 1980s where the bulk of the country's public and private borrowings came in the form of short-term commercial loans.

The central bank chief also noted that the bulk of the country's $55.3 billion foreign debt burden has an average maturity of 12.7 years.

Tetangco also said that the country's debt ratios continue to improve, with foreign debt now equivalent to only 62.39 percent of local economic output compared to its 2002 level of 71.29 percent.

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Banco de Oro Consumer Lending Group Finds Ways

Banco de Oro's Consumer Lending Group (BDO CLG) embodies just what it means when they say We Find Ways. Always coming up with compelling products and offers, BDO CLG seems to be perpetually on the hunt for means of making more value for money services and products. Rolly Tanchanco, Executive Vice President of the group, has this to say, "Finding ways - ways to give added value to our products, ways to make our offers irresistibly impressive to clients - that's what we do." Anna Yap, Vice President of BDO CLG Marketing, adds reason for this ceaseless searching: "Especially now with competitive rates all over, we have to continually and creatively seek ways to make our offers so much more than the rest. You'll find our consumer lending products always have something extra to give."

Rolando C. Tanchanco, Executive Vice President and Consumer Lending Group Head

BDO SuperValue Home Loan: A new kind of security in our homes

Understanding the need for security in our homes, especially in these economically trying times, BDO SuperValue Home Loan now comes with Home Rate Shield and FREE Personal Accident Insurance worth as much as P3 Million. Home and Auto Loan Product Manager, Mitzi Romero, explains the reason for these seemingly too good to be true offers. "In these uncertain times, an added sense of security is what we feel clients need in making that big step of owning a home." And she is right. Home Rate Shield is just the security one needs in home financing. It guarantees that your interest rate won't go higher than 13.9% per annum, no matter what. And with as much as P3 Million FREE Personal Accident Insurance, plus up to P15,000 worth of Our Home Gift Certificates, BDO SuperValue Home Loan has just the right added value that we can really put to practical use.

BDO Home Loan Sales and Marketing Team

Fully Loaded Values from BDO SuperCharged Auto Loan

Like a proud parent, Tony Peña, Vice President for Auto Loans, proudly talks about another BDO CLG product: "Our SuperCharged Auto Loan extends the usual auto loan service even long after our clients have driven their new car home. It's really more than just car financing." Indeed, it is. With FREE car check-up coupons and as much as P10,000 gas, SuperCharged Auto Loan gives extras that amount to something more than the usual auto loan.

From left: Anna U. Yap, Vice President, CLG-Marketing; Tony O. Peña, Vice President, Auto Loans; Mitzi B. Romero, Auto and Home Loan Product Manager

Amidst fluctuating rates and price hike of almost every basic goods, Banco de Oro Consumer Lending Group offers us a respite and protection against these everyday uncertainties, through product offers that give real life value and security. These certainly prove that BDO Consumer Lending Group does find ways.

RED-hot product launch /C2

LifeStyle

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

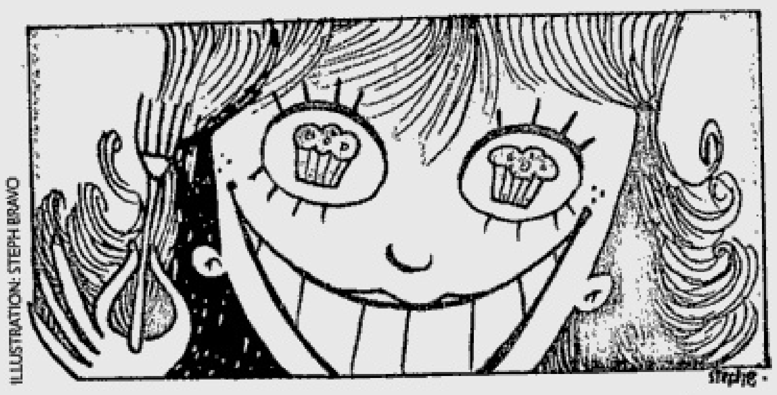
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Your eyes can make you eat more

Part Two

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

HUNGER and appetite are not the same. Hunger is the physical need for food while appetite is the psychological craving to eat. It is needing versus wanting to eat.

You can have a desire for food even if you are not hungry. That's why "there is always room for dessert" no matter how full you are.

Hunger is driven by internal stimuli like a growling stomach, a gnawing feeling and lightheadedness. Appetite is driven by external stimuli like the sight and smell of food, which can also influence us to eat more than we need.

Visual triggers

Studies by Brian Wansink, a consumer psychology expert at the University of Illinois, have shown that visual triggers like larger plates will make people eat more without realizing it. Conversely, smaller plates will make them consume less.

He says people lose track of how much they eat because their eyes fool their stomach. Apparently, we need visual cues to tell us we have eaten enough.

As for drinking glasses, people tend to recognize height more easily than width. Wansink found that adults poured 30-35 percent more orange juice into a short fat glass than into a tall thin glass even if both held the same amount.

Larger = more

Physiologist Barbara Rolls of Penn State University, researching stimulates appetite, found

YOUR/ C3

Put the best you forward

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

LIKING the real you can be pleasure or pain—depending on how you look at yourself.

Most men and women are far too critical of their physical appearance that it affects their self-esteem.

"There's a direct connection between your self-esteem and your body image. The better your self-esteem, the better you'll feel about what is happening to your body as you journey through life," says Mary Huntington Zehner, clinical director, Rocky Mountain Treatment Center, Great Falls, Montana.

But, even if you have a terrific sense of self, the battle against time and its ravages continues—graying hair, wrinkles, extra weight in the tummy and hips—all this could be demoralizing unless one adopts the right attitude.

Liking yourself

You need to improve your body image if:

1. When you face yourself in the mirror you frown.
2. Your first thought in the morning is to get the rest of the day over with.
3. You wear the first thing you see in the closet because you don't care much about dressing up.
4. You hardly smile.
5. You look down most of the time, chin down instead of looking straight and forward, chin up.
6. You make comments like "Oh, I'm not so great, not so cool, not so successful, not so happy..." etc. Deprecating yourself is a habit you can't break.

Work to do

Form and function can work together. Don't put too much emphasis on your form without placing value on your function. Work with what you have.

1. Take a good look at yourself. Now, assess your pluses and minuses. Compliment yourself on your good points (physical and intellectual/emotional) and tell yourself that your minuses require your attention and need working on.
2. Repeat this truth like a mantra: "I am not my body. I am inside my body." This way you can appreciate yourself far beyond physical judgment.
3. Do the "think-walk." Sometimes it is more effective to clear your thoughts and realign them when you are engaged in a physical activity like walking.
4. Talk to yourself. No, it isn't madness. It's a powerful technique in boosting self-confidence. Don't hold back your thoughts or feeling. And if you need to scold, discipline or compliment yourself, do it. But do not start a day without paying yourself a compliment like: "You're looking good... you're radiant today... go for it!"

This is your time for positive feedback. Begin with yourself. Expecting a pat on the back or compliments from somebody else can be futile. So do it yourself.

5. Embark on a self-improvement regimen—losing weight, honing your skills, starting a new hobby, improving your attitude toward life...
6. Reward yourself. Pamper yourself now—you deserve it.

Relax Rx

Something is wrong inside you when you are tense. Here's one way to de-stress:

- Settle down nice and comfy in your chair.
- Rest your back against the chair, feet on the floor, legs uncrossed, hands on your lap. Breathe slowly, calmly.
- Tightly shut your eyes, then open. Do this five times.
- Clench your fists tightly, then release. Repeat five times.
- Roll your head gently forward, sideways, back, making a clockwise motion. Repeat counter-clockwise.
- Affirm: "This pain/stress/hurt/disappointment has passed."

Minty soak

Fill your tub with warm water. Throw in three to five tea bags of mint tea. If you have fresh mint leaves, mix them in, too. Remove the tea bags after five minutes. Get two extra tea bags, dip in iced water and place over your eyes for three minutes. This is great to relieve tension and puffy eyes.

Have a tall glass of chilled mint tea on the side. Take several sips.

Have a good soak for five to seven minutes. Imagine your entire body tingling with life. Shower with chilled water. Feel energized.

Love and light!

> Even if you have a terrific sense of self, the battle against time and its ravages continues

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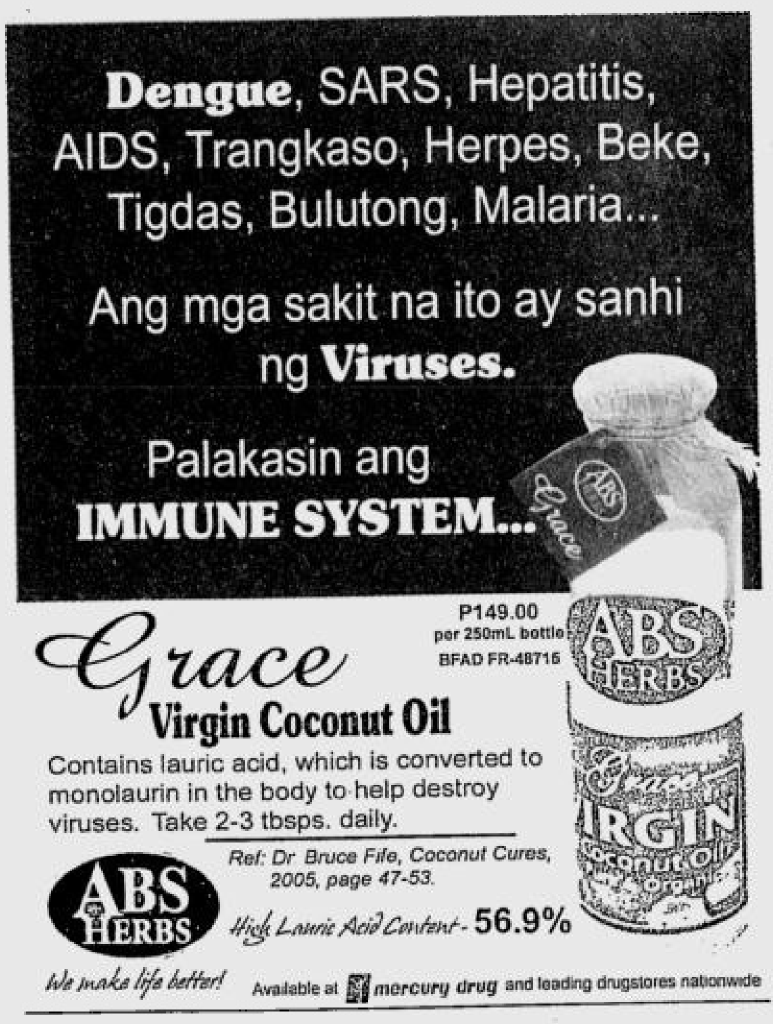
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IAME -Alternative School to UP, Ateneo and DLSU

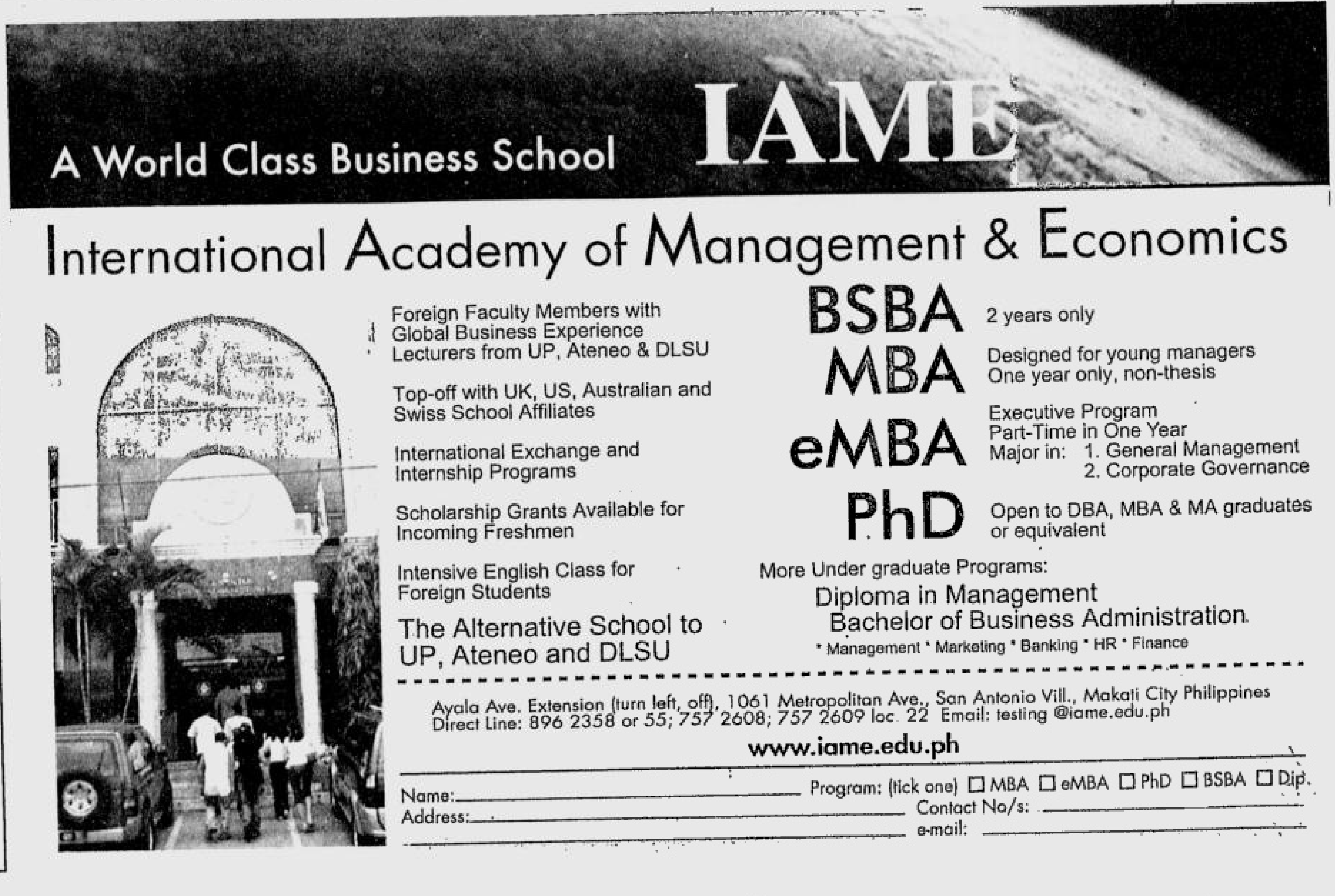
The Makati-based International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME) has evolved into an alternative school with the influx of students from UP, Ateneo, De la Salle University, and UA and P university and convergence of lecturers from these universities in the Ph.D. in Management class.

A doctor of business administration graduate of U. P. who was formerly deputy director general of NEDA and now department chairman of economics of one of the big 3 universities has just successfully defended her dissertation in fulfillment of the academic requirements for Ph.D. in Management of IAME.

The feedback from graduates who attended postdoctoral courses in Ivy League schools in U.S. and/or international management conferences abroad is that the Ph.D. in Management is considered of higher status than DBA. The IAME doctoral program has attracted 3 billionaires who obtained masteral and DBA degrees from the big 3.

Many students who passed the entrance exams for B.S. degree programs at the UP, Ateneo and La Salle decided to enroll instead at IAME because of the ambience of freedom within its campus in Makati, the quality of teaching which is the result of synergy from the big 3 schools times the strength of IAME, the globally-oriented curriculum and delivery system, and use of the Internet to make up for gaps in academic work, especially for students who frequently travel abroad for business or professional reasons The MBA and EMBA have attracted the most students from the private and public sector. Its level of enrollment is way above the average of big leading universities that CHED NCR is surprised by the influx of students and wants it reduced.

IAME has produced graduates who are now company presidents, country manager or regional managers of multinational corporations based abroad, executive directors of companies in U.S., multi-million entrepreneurs, member of Congress, former Cabinet member, city vice mayor, city councilors, and others who are going places. IAME degrees and diplomas are acceptable for employment in foreign companies based in Makati or abroad.


A World Class Business School
IAME
International Academy of Management & Economics

Foreign Faculty Members with Global Business Experience
Lecturers from UP, Ateneo & DLSU

Top-off with UK, US, Australian and Swiss School Affiliates

International Exchange and Internship Programs

Scholarship Grants Available for Incoming Freshmen

Intensive English Class for Foreign Students

The Alternative School to UP, Ateneo and DLSU

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eMBA Executive Program Part-Time in One Year Major in: 1. General Management 2. Corporate Governance
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HOTSHOTS: Biorica's Sashi Mohinani and Gil Caunac Jr.

TALKING beauty: Sham Advani and Ramu Sitaldas

PRETTY-PRETTY Kinny Salas and Celine Lopez

BESS Baluyot and Biorica's Guy Caunac

FRENCH connection: French Economic Council's Nicole Lefebvre

WENDY Puyat is back from her base in Hong Kong for a breather.

STYLISH lifestyle gal and editor Carla Sibal

Guests see red in product launch

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE DINNER was excellent, the company hip and trendy, and the conversation was all about beauty care, *palanggas*.

Almost everyone was fashionably on time for the 6 p.m. cocktails at the super eye-catching garden of master chef Laudico's place in upscale Urdaneta Village, where we were introduced to Biorica's beauty products.

Biorica, dahlings, is a new and revolutionary French beauty line. An essential component of its products, would you believe, is an extract from the saliva of cultured leeches.

Heading the beautiful pack were French Biorica proprietors **Guy** and **Gil Caunac** who jetted in specially for this event. The motif was blood-red because of Biorica's leech component, naturally.

Cocktail drinks were Bloody Kir Royale, Cosmopolitan, Coco-Leechy-tini and Red Wine.

Appetizers included Crostini of Blood Pate topped with Jicama, Mango and Tomato Salsa and Fresh Tuna Tartare Ceviche.

Dinner consisted of Creamy Beet Chicken Bisque with Poached Blood in Crepe Pouch, followed by Grilled Blood Sausage in White Wine Dijon Sauce served with Blue Cheese; Potato Gratin and Organic Greens drizzled with Strawberry Vinaigrette. Desserts were chilled Red Watermelon Soup served with Ginger and Coconut Panna Cotta.

The medicinal leech, scientific name *Hirudo Medicinalis* (HM), is said to be the only one of more than 600 species to have specific properties and therapeutic virtues that can be adapted to humans.

"We are very proud of what we have accomplished with Biorica, considered as revolutionary and the latest breakthrough in the cosmetic sector. It is the only brand so far to use the salivary extract of the medicinal leech for skin care," Biorica general manager Gil Caunac said.

An enzyme, Eglin, is a very potent anti-oxidant that fights human skin aging. Around the world, some doctors already use leeches in plastic and repair surgery because their enzymes prompt the rapid replacement of damaged tissues.

The red-lettered event was superbly organized by that gent for all seasons, **DJ Montano**, who moved around greeting partyphiles like talented **Rajo Laurel**; my pal **Pepper Teehankee**; Lifestyle's **Sari Yap**; one of our town's best-dressed women and top gourmet, chef and caterer, vivacious **Sigalit Djemal**; Rustan's mega secret weapon, **Rhoda Campos**; **Tess Tabuena**; **Dino Pineda**; and gifted choreographer **Robbie Carmona**, plus others like them, *palanggas*.

Well, Biorica, exclusively imported and distributed by Sichel & Sichel, is now available in all Rustan's Essences stores.

TOP organizer DJ Montano and Hindy Tantoco of Rustan's U2

BEAUTIES: Metro Society's Mia Borromeo and Rustan's Carmen Delgado

AGOO Bengzon, Jenni Epperson and Preview's Pauline Suaco-Juan

CHACHA Camacho, Cez Manalo, Narda Camacho and Turkish Ambassador Tanju Sumer; (standing) Pakistan Ambassador Iftikhar Kazmi and Argentinean Ambassador Mario Schuff

BING Carrion-Buck presents her latest book, "The British Legacy to the Philippines: 425 Years of Philippine-British Relations (1579-2004)."

Centuries of friendship

World-renowned GlaxoSmithKline Philippines (GSK), one of the leading research-based pharmaceutical and health care companies, hosted the super book launch of multitalented lady of substance, civic-spirited **Bing Carrion-Buck**. "The British Legacy to the Philippines: 425 Years of Philippine-British Relations (1579-2004)" was launched at the GSK head office in Makati.

The 380-page well-written coffee table book is a historical tale of over four centuries of relations between Great Britain and the Philippines, starting with the arrival of the famous English sea captain, Sir Francis Drake, in 1579.

"This book is a strong testimony to relations between the British and the Filipino people, that go beyond trade and investment. It captures the relationship and achievement of both peoples..." Bing Carrion-Buck said.

Bing definitely did a thorough research, *palanggas*, and shows in detail contributions of British companies to the Philippines through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. Namedroppable British companies like GlaxoSmithKline, Unilever and the dynamic Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Corp. support *trés* important areas of health and medicine, insurance, education, the arts and the environment.

Bing was congratulated by GSK president and managing director **Amado T. Tadena** and corporate affairs senior vice president **Noel R. Isberto**.

The night's super guests of honor were tall and distinguished British Ambassador **Peter Beckingham** and his *charmante* wife **Jill**.

Other hotshot guests were former senators **Loren Legarda** and **Leticia Ramos-Shahani**; newly appointed Health Sec. **Francisco T. Duque III**; **José Syjuco Jr.**; **Jennifer Wallum**, MBE; **Dulce Festin-Baybay** of the ABS-CBN Foundation; **Rennie Andrews** of Metrobank; **Philippa Mandry** of the Embassy of Sweden; Unilever's **Chito Macapagal**; fun **Gill Westaway** of the British Council, plus so many other bookworms like them, dahlings.

As the intellectuals socialized, they all agreed this was one must-have coffee-table book. No wonder all the copies at the reception were sold out.

If you're interested, *palanggas*, check out Seagull Publishing at 8247505 or 7760607; fax, 7761165 or 7761167 for the book. It's great reading.

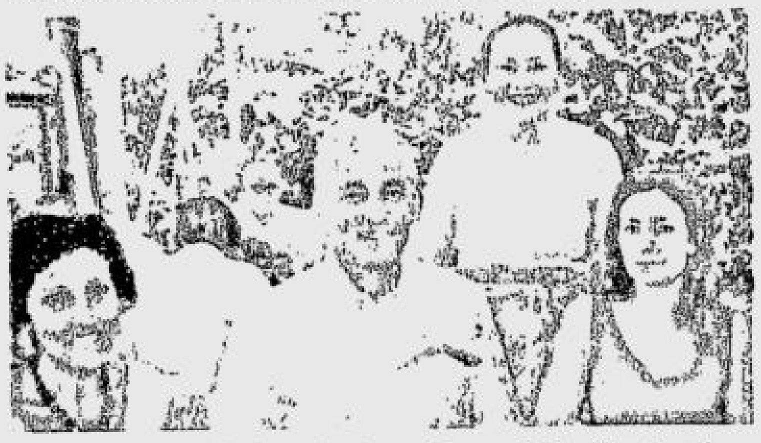
JOSÉ Manuel Romualdez, Bing Carrion-Buck, British Ambassador Peter Beckingham, Health Sec. Francisco Duque, GSK president Amado Tadena, Jill Beckingham, UN resident coordinator Deborah Landey and GSK SVP Noel Isberto

MICHAEL and Lai Bristol, Cora Espiritu, Gill Westaway, Ambassador Raul Goco, and David Reynolds

NINA Wiraatmaja, former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, Jenny Wallum, Dr. Catherine Ramos, Bing Joaquin and Kim Nygaard

OFELIA Trinidad, Gul Tanghe, Letty Hahn, Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Tessie Rodrigo, Marissa del Rosario and Lydia Reyes

DFA chief of protocol José Zaide, Bihn Slavicky, husband Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky, and their good-looking son Marc


CLARA Colesanti, Ambassador Arturo Duarte Ortiz of Guatemala, the hostess Mellie Ablaza, and Katja van der Berne

BRILLIANT interior decorator Jun-Jun Ablaza with mom Mellie Ablaza, vivacious Tereret Tambunting and hubby Andy Liboro

Festive sendoff

Farewell usually gives one mixed emotions. But hostess with the mostest **Mellie Romero Ablaza**, Consul a.h. of Guatemala in Manille, and her husband **Louie A.** wanted nothing of that sort so they sent out invitations that read, "Let's *fiesta* to bid farewell" to **Arturo Duarte Ortiz**, non-resident ambassador of Guatemala to the Philippines, and to Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti** and his *trés* charmante wife **Clara**.

At the fun luncheon in the Ablazas' cool Tagaytay home, *palanggas*, Trio Los Adriatico got things going with the Hon. **Carlos de Carvalho** of Brazil belting out Spanish and English arias. A Filipino group, aged 7 to 70, left the chi-chi invitees totally awed by dancing on live coals.

As usual, **Mellie Reyes** of the popular Plaza prepared the yummy fiesta spread. **Jun-Jun Ablaza** did the eye-catching decor of the lawn and the fab table centerpieces.

Don't ignore 'gut feel'

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

WHEN my family moved to Tahanan Village in Parañaque City in 1979, there were very, very few houses. I bought a lot on the highest part of the main road, Don Rufino Avenue, because I had a good view of Laguna de Bay from my veranda. The breeze was also strong.

That was a short-lived pleasure. As more houses were constructed, the bay completely disappeared from view and the breeze could hardly be felt anymore. Fortunately, to our right is an alley with a vacant lot up to now. This gives us some breathing space.

We came from a highly polluted and noisy place in Sta. Ana, Manila, beside my in-laws. The children were sickly and had allergies due to vehicular pollution.

They gained weight soon after we transferred to the less polluted Tahanan. But I was bothered by smoke from the Meralco Power Plant on Sucat.

I observed the direction of the wind and noted it went to Tahanan and BF Homes areas only on certain months. So I thought it was not as bad as the old place.

But there was an unpleasant, yet remarkable, incident we experienced shortly after we transferred to Tahanan. Robbers broke into our house while we were sound asleep and carted away valuables, some appliances and my recording equipment. The house was not even fully furnished then. There were no curtains and just a few furniture.

We decided to transfer, although the house was not yet ready, because I was advised by astrologer friends that the 7th of July was the best time to move in, as the moon was new and seven was a powerful and lucky number for me.

I resonate to the number 7 being born on July 25, a double seven in numerology. Although I did not understand any of these at the time, I followed the advice. I had nothing to lose, I told myself.

Premonition

What made the unfortunate incident in Tahanan Village remarkable and unforgettable for us was this: A few days before the robbers struck, I told my wife that I felt we were being watched. It was a very strong feeling but I couldn't understand why at that time.

The feeling persisted for three to four days. At that time, the lots fronting our house were largely empty. Behind the lots across the street was the perimeter wall of the subdivision. Vacant lots were full of tall grass, where the robbers must have kept a close watch on us for several evenings.

On the night the criminals struck, I couldn't keep still. I was reading in my library on the ground floor of the house but I went up early. I told my wife something was bothering me, but I did not know what was causing the tension, just a very strange feeling of being agitated.

There was also a feeling of something about to happen that I couldn't understand. So I ignored it and slept early. At about 1 a.m., I was dreaming that robbers entered our house and carted away our appliances and valuables, when my 10-year-old son Jolan woke up to go to the toilet, and saw one of the robbers.

He roused the maid sleeping in the same room, who immediately knocked on the wall, as our room adjoined that of the children. When I went to the children's room, the maid said there were robbers.

My son thought it was I who came from downstairs but wondered why I was not wearing a shirt. When the robbers saw my son, they scampered away. I even saw one of them rush out and jump over our fence, quickly scaling the perimeter wall of the village and disappearing.

Late response

I shouted for help but we did not have close neighbors at the time. It took the security people a very long time to respond to our call. When they got our call, they first reported the incident to the police station in BF Homes before responding.

I wrote a very strong letter of protest to the homeowners association. What action they took, I couldn't recall now. I suppose they did something positive, because now the village has one of the best security systems in the area.

The lesson I learned from this incident is to listen to our gut feel or intuition, instead of simply ignoring it, for it may be a warning of things to come.

What was extraordinary about this incident was the fact that I was dreaming of being robbed at the very same time it was happening. It was as if the dream was mirroring in my mind what was taking place outside, in my environment. We've heard, of course, of dreams foretelling what is to come, but seldom is it about what is happening at that moment in the real world.

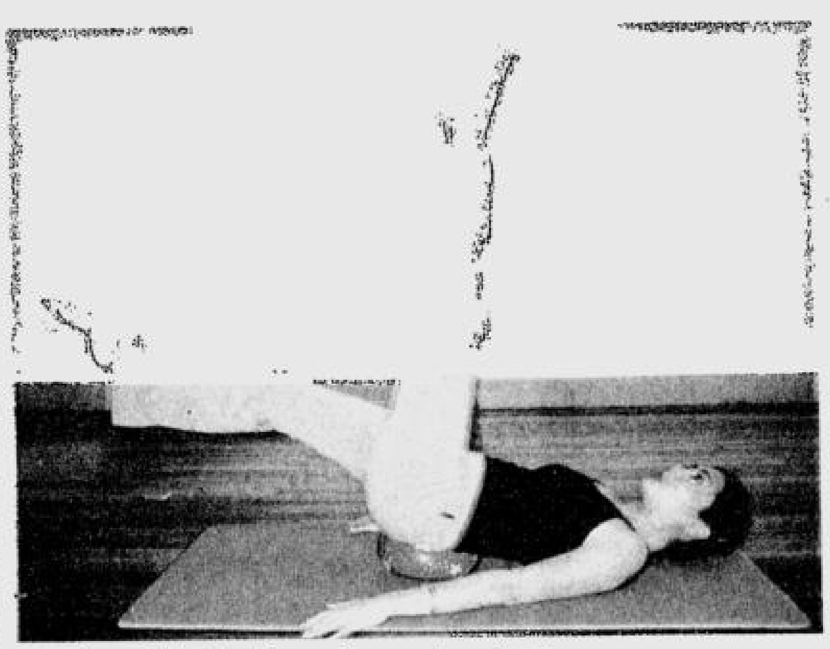
If only I correctly interpreted what my body was telling me then, I might have been able to prevent the robbery and my family would not have been traumatized.

That must have been the unconscious reason why I later offered training courses to help people develop their intuitive and psychic abilities.

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jtlicauco@tri-isys.com or inner-awareness_2005@yahoo.com; or visit www.jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Sunday.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Vertical scissors on mini ball



TIGHTENS and tones the abdominal muscles as well as the muscles in front of the thigh. This exercise also stretches the hamstrings.

Equipment:

Exercise mat and mini ball

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with the mini ball under your pelvis.
2. Bring your knees toward your chest then straighten them to the ceiling.
3. Tighten your abdominal muscles as you alternately lower and raise your right and left legs.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Do not allow your lower back to arch as the legs are lowered. Maintain a certain amount of tightness and contraction in your abdominal muscles to prevent your lower back from excessively arching and flattening as you do the exercise.
2. The goal of the exercise is to keep your torso and abdominal muscles stabilized while you lower and raise your legs alternately.
3. Exhale as you switch from one leg to the other.
4. Beginner option: Keep your knees bent.

Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions. One repetition equals lowering the right and left leg.

Clinic to handle cases of depression

THE ST. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) inaugurated recently its Mood Disorders Clinic.

The clinic will address problems related to depression. Symptoms of the disorder include listlessness, feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, loss of appetite and problems falling asleep.

Dr. Ruby Manalastas, co-director of the Institute of Neuroscience, Section of Psychiatry, said depression was a common disorder that could occur anytime and affect people of all ages. Most of the time, the sickness remained undiagnosed and left untreated.

She cited World Health Organization (WHO) studies that identified unipolar depression as the No. 2 health problem in the world today as far as the burden of illness was concerned. WHO predicts that by 2020, the No. 1 cause of death worldwide will be suicide.

Mood disorder is a chronic condition that lasts three to six months. If left untreated, it affects a person's ability to function. Manalastas said the new clinic would help in identifying individuals suffering from depression and help them regain their baseline level of function.

Though the exact causes of mood problems remain unknown, several factors have been found to be associated with them including genetic predisposition, abnormality in brain neurotransmitters, early childhood trauma and certain medical conditions.

The clinic will work closely with the Stroke Unit, Geriatric Center, Hemodialysis Unit, Sleep Center and Pain Clinic, among others.

Manalastas said people suffering from mood disorders had nothing to be ashamed of. Depression is a medical condition that has to be treated once it has passed the two-week duration criteria.

Manalastas hoped the new SLMC Mood Disorders Clinic would help in gathering statistics that would contribute to the establishment of a database on the prevalence and incidence rate of the problem in the Philippines.

Manalastas is currently chair and assistant professor of SLMC's College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science. She is also a consultant psychiatrist of the Supreme Court Judicial and Bar Council.

Call 7230101 local 4303.

Your eyes can make you eat more

From page C1

that the larger the portion served, the more food eaten.

In one of her studies, lean young men were served different portions of macaroni and cheese for lunch on three separate days. The men ate 10 ounces when they were served a 16-ounce portion, 13 ounces when they had 22 ounces, and 15 ounces when they got a 25-ounce serving.

By controlling portion sizes, you can curb your appetite. At home, use smaller plates and bowls so you feel like you are eating more.

Buy only single-size servings of high-calorie food like chocolates and cookies. When watching a movie, buy the smallest size of popcorn. Wansink found that people consumed 44 percent more popcorn if they bought the largest size.

Slow = less

Weight-loss experts have long advised people to eat more slowly if they want to eat less. A recent Japanese study of 1,700 young women has confirmed this. Women who took their time eating reported feeling fuller sooner, making them eat less.

Female participants in an American study lost an average of eight pounds when they consciously ate slowly, chewed thoroughly and stopped eating when their food no longer tasted as good as when they took their first bite. The control group lost three pounds.

Head researcher John Poothullil explained, "Your body intuitively knows how many calories you need and will dampen your taste buds once you've had enough."

But to know you have had enough you need to slow down and savor your food. Kelly Brownell, director of the Yale Center for Eating and Weight Control, says, "We know from research that when you eat more slowly, the natural satiety response can be triggered and you can feel full sooner and therefore eat less."

Faster = more

People will eat more quickly and finish more food in a fast-paced environment with loud upbeat music and bright lights. In one study, lively background music made participants take five bites per minute and half the group asked for second servings.

People who ate to calming flute music averaged 3.2 bites per minute, took smaller bites and not one asked for a second helping. Most of them also left a fourth of their food on their plates.

The study implies that if you want to eat less, play relaxing music while you eat. Mealtimes are probably not the right time to play the latest dance tunes.

Variety = calories

A report in the Tufts University newsletter says human beings are genetically programmed for "sensory specific satiety." This simply means if you keep eating the same kind of food, you get sick of eating it.

That's why you eat more when you eat "family style" in a restaurant when everyone orders something different and you share all the dishes compared to when you order your own main course. This is the reason why you pig out at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Scientists from the University of Buffalo in New York reviewed 39 studies and found that people given different choices in a multi-course meal ate 44 percent more than those given the same type of food for each course.

Another study found that people who do not eat a large variety of food (except for fruits and vegetables) have an easier time losing weight. This means it's okay to have three kinds of fruit available at home but not three kinds of dessert.

Company

Through several experiments, Rolls determined that socializing affected how much people ate.

First she found that people ate 44 percent more when they were with other people than when they ate alone. She believed they might have been distracted by the presence of other people and didn't pay attention to how much they were eating.

Second, she found that when participants socialized with friends while eating, they ate 50 percent more. The biggest difference was with dessert.

Rolls also found that women tended to eat smaller portions when they were dining with men they found attractive but ate regular-sized portions when with men they were not physically attracted to. Men ate the same amount whether or not they found their women dining companions attractive.

Note: The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a seminar on Sept. 17 in UP Diliman. Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202.
Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the functions of the Liver?

The liver is the largest and one of the most important organs. It is like a chemical processing factory and has many functions including production of a digestive liquid called Bile.

Cholesterol and bile are produced by the liver from the breakdown products of dietary fat and old red blood cells. The liver produces proteins and stores glycogen, iron and some vitamins.It also removes toxic substances (poison and waste products) from the blood and converts into safer substances.

This week's answer to our feature question on the functions of the liver was provided by our six-year medical service provider, Dr. Ma. Teresa Villaruna Villa. Dra. Villa specializes in IM-Gastroenterology.

She finished her medical degree from De La Salle University in 1998, followed by her residency training for a specialization in Internal Medicine in 1994 from Veterans Memorial Medical Center. She later had her subspecialization training in Gastroenterology in 1997 in the same hospital. She is a member of the Philippine Medical Association, Lipa Medical Society, Philippine Association of Medical Specialist and an associate fellow of the Philippine College of Physician.

She is married to Dr. Teodoro Antonio and has 2 children. MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Lipa Medix Medical Center, Mondays to Saturdays from 8am to 12noon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

National Shopper's Choice Award 2004 - 2005 "No.1 Natural & Organic Fibre Supplement"
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School Children - Constipation Free Studies

All doctors agree that fibre is good for you but the challenge is eating enough to make a difference.

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Globelines Central Visayas field operations head Tony Peralta and Globelines senior engineer Klifford Moleta

Telco debuts in badminton tourney

INNOVE Communications Inc. made its debut in the National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) Inter-Telecoms Badminton Tournament this year.

Team Innove, composed of 16 employees of GlobeQuest and Globelines, participated in the 3rd Commissioners Cup Inter-Telecoms Badminton Tournament held recently at the Greenhills Badminton Center in San Juan.

The annual event brought together different sectors of the telecommunications industry, including telephone companies and suppliers, as well as broadcast networks and cable television operators.

GLOBEQUEST account manager Fritzyjo Fernandez was the Best Muse of the tournament.

The 3rd Commissioners Cup, which aimed to build camaraderie, develop sportsmanship and establish good working relationship within the industry, was presented by Innove Communications and Sun Cellular, together with Primeworks Intermedia Inc. and the NTC.

FORMER First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, special guest at the opening, with Innove chief administration officer Racquel Cagurangan

3RD Commissioners Cup tournament director EG Lim and Globequest project development head Gordon Aguiling

Know more about 'silent killer'

GET the latest issue of Healthy Options News Digest and learn more about diabetes, the silent killer disease.

This issue's cover story is all about the life-threatening complications of diabetes. The disease is the leading cause of adult blindness, end-stage kidney disease and amputations. It increases the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke. Heart disease is the leading cause of diabetes-related deaths.

Diabetes also causes difficulties in pregnancy and results in more birth defects. Also associated with the chronic disease is erectile dysfunction, a consistent inability to have an erection firm enough for sexual intercourse. Diabetic women may have problems with sexual response and vaginal lubrication.

Healthy Options News Digest also discusses chronic constipation.

The publication is given free to customers of Healthy Options, a natural products store with branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati; 2/L of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; Ground Level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; Ground Floor of SM City North Edsa; 2/L of SM Manila; SM Pampanga; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; and 2/L of SM Megamall B, Edsa Mandaluyong City. For more information, visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph

Super 7 Prescriptions for Diabetes Prevention
Healthy Options
Diabetes Complications

US hospital now serving Filipinos

STATE-OF-THE ART medical services from the Texas Medical Center (TMC), the largest medical complex in the world, are now available to Filipinos.

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (SLEH), the principal institution of the TMC, has opened a local office through its principal representative, the Houston Medical Group (HMG).

HMG provides Filipino patients two exclusive services: the Virtual Second Opinion (VSO), giving them access to the medical expertise of specialists from the comfort of their homes, and Advanced Medical Treatment (AMT) that ensures hassle-free concierge service for those who have to go the TMC in the United States for treatment.

Leo de Leon, HMG president, said everything was customized to meet the patients' demands and needs.

SLEH is consistently ranked by US News and World Report among the leading hospitals in America. It is the teaching hospital of the world-renowned Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas. The Texas Medical Center has over 42 institutions, 13 hospitals and 11 schools. More than five million patients visit the center annually.

MARNIE and John-John Torres

HEALTHY DRINK FOR A HAPPY FAMILY

Full-time housewives Bianca Roque and Marnie Torres have discovered the health benefits that Nesvita Pro-Heart provides for their husbands.

Roque supports husband Rommel who likes sports, particularly tennis. She welcomed Nesvita Pro-Heart with Acticol to help lower cholesterol levels and develop a healthier heart.

Torres is supportive of her husband John-John's love for sailing. She also appreciates Nesvita Pro-Heart ability to lower bad cholesterol.

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